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The East Coast and hard barbaric or legitimate? See how our forum users chimed in on this topic: www.macleans.ca/week/40404. A post-9/11 world? Read more about the increasing controversy in *Snork* Editor Brian Buchanan's blog: www.macleans.ca/brian/buchanan. *Maclean's.ca* is the first choice of choice. At work or at home, there is in our radio page and listen up: www.macleans.ca/tvradio.

Most people find it hard to talk about abuse and addiction.

Happily, this talk-show host is the exception.

Here's a story with a happy ending. And a horrific beginning. Raped at 8 years old, an alcoholic by the age of 13, Dan could barely function. His family was devastated by sudden death and suicide. Drawing upon hidden reserves of strength Dan entered treatment and struggled through his ordeal to not only survive but to thrive. Dan is currently a television talk-show host on Channel 12 in Qibwaa. He's involved with CAMH, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and their vital battle to help others in similar circumstances overcome their problems. Can it be done? Talking to Dan, we'd say emphatically, yes.

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The masked ball is over

The Israeli election was a near-death ritual on several fronts



BARBARA AMIEL

Jewish prayers are not as emotional and rarely as melodic as Christian hymns, but in the prayer there is a sense that a new era has begun and an end and this cry is the end.

But you can't sin for a Jew in a court. You can't meet mourners' Kaddish for Ariel Sharon, who will never wake up but will not die. No Israeli did the same thing. They paid tribute to the deceased prime minister by giving the most seats in the election last week to Kadima, the new political party he founded just before he lost office in January. They voted in the shadow of the huge photographs of him that dominated the election campaign outside his ultra-world. They voted for his successor that he had a plan.

This election was a near-death ritual on several fronts, beyond saying goodbye to Sharon, who could not register and so lost his seat in the Knesset. Israelis knew they could have no more illusions of settlement with the Palestinians. When the government next does his sworn to extremist job, one cannot hope to handle it with diplomatic "road maps" or serious on living together. No matter how good the concerns by Daniel Barenboim's Israeli-Arab orchestra, there is no room for each post-Sharon occasion on the island world of Hamas.

This version of the game is new and probably more like soccer. It was a ritual ball that fooled only the foolish—though that included most of the Western world who believed in Yasser Arafat. Israelis could certainly be made with Arafat, but they had nothing to do with peace or even with the settlement of the Palestinians, only with Arafat's head as a crown and the Fatah as a sword he controlled. Now terror is openly exposed, and in the unlikely event there are genuine deals to be made, they will be with these enemies.

The low water mark in Israel was not necessarily the result of apathy so much as a sense of resignation. A majority of Israelis knew that land will have to be given up for safe borders, and how who would build homes on the West Bank by both Labor and Likud governments will be dragged from these homes by Jewish soldiers. The rest was done for "peace," or, rather, the chance

of being able to defend oneself in war. But actually coming a vote for coupling actors is asking too much of Israelis. Better to just let Ariel Sharon get on with it.

There were huge room numbers. Only in Israel could new parties make such a dramatic splash. Apart from Kadima, seven seats went to Gil (the prisoners' party), giving them a serious voice in a coalition government. Nearly 10 per cent of Israelis are over 65, and with a life expectancy for women of 81 years, and men 77 years, these good

How he manages to reconcile his views with those of his family is his business. But it may speak to superior negotiating skills.



ACTING SHARON PM Ariel Sharon, shadowed by Ariel Sharon

retirees have given more time left to look up their heads. They began hours after the election results, when a last broke out between grotesque senior Moshe Shalom (70) and youthful Labor candidate Shelly Yechimovich (41). Sharon's son Shalom (41) "joke" after the apparently suggested the prisoners were talking to Labor about forming a second coalition with Kadima. Yechimovich, a self-described socialist and feminist with

once irreducible sense of humor, said Sharon was a well-known Israeli newspaper. "What did Shelly think," said Sharon with the blunt condemnation of the side, "that she was making the news on television? They are making things up."

There was no humor in the plight of Likud, reduced to 12 seats, the lowest number in its history. Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to stay on even as the inevitable "secret" meetings to open him began. There it probably is on a table, but could make a better case for stay at a time when skilled management of Israel's economy is vital. Whether or not Sharon overcame the reality and his dislike of the man and gives Netanyahu the job will say a lot about Israel's new PM.

Apart from being one of the three best-dressed men in Israeli politics—Shimon Peres and Netanyahu being the other two—Sharon remains a man of action. His performance as mayor of Jerusalem, a job he held for two terms, reveals little about him. Otherwise, he has been a successful lawyer and has the reputation of being a man who did about his business affairs. In appearance he has a face as not a second forehead—the prototype of every businessman you have ever met. There is a sense of disappointment as to whether or not he really was close to the heart of Sharon—though he was certainly a work and highly level defender from Likud to Kadima.

Now a man of the center-right manages to reconcile his views with those of his family (with Arafat a favorite) and as peace is being sought. Sharon is a self-proclaimed lion and lion's heart, but in his New York City-based organization he agreed a portion of Yehi Goral, the organization supporting Israeli soldiers returning to serve in the occupied territories while his other son refused service in the military and lives in Paris) is Sharon's own business, but there is a nagging fear his family's return will play into his policy decisions. On the other hand, keeping such a close relationship together may speak to some highly developed negotiating skills. Sharon will need them.

Nearly 60 years into the Zionist dream, Israel is retreating behind safe walls. The movement's Kaddish ends with the hope for "peace in the universe." An unwelcome, unpaired adverb is in the Middle East. ■



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF KIMBERLY KIM AND CHERYL EVERALL

The *Week-Enders* hit, Oct. 7 weekend, who narrate suspense in the Mexican resort murders of a couple from Woodbridge, Ont., called upon the Prime Minister to speak on their behalf when he visited Mexico last week. They also asked him to push for more RCMP involvement. Kim and Everall, who've grown much closer as friends during this month-long ordeal, said they weren't looking for a favor, but rather (chuckle) Asked about the case, Mexican President Vicente Fox refused to say whether they remained suspects.

DISCOVERY

Back in the saddle
Researchers at the University of Alberta asked 10 female athletes and 140 spectators to recall whiplash injuries from a recent auto accident. Symptomatic subjects lasted about half as long for

return. *Neurology* says sleep deprivation

have smothered near-complete skull—found in two pieces in a gully. Although the face and cranium are different from those of modern humans, the skull closely follows a new ancestry. They estimate it to be between 200,000 and 600,000 years old, and say it promises to reveal a wealth of new information.

MORTALITY

Not ready yet
If the H1N1 swine flu virus were to enter next year's global pandemic levels—the possibility of that occurring is hotly debated—the news on the vaccine front isn't promising. Research shows that the first human vaccine to protect against bird flu was only about half the time, even though doses tested were as much as 12 times stronger than those normally administered for a regular winter flu shot.

Vitamin danger
Scientists at London King's College claim that high doses of vitamin supplements may increase the chances of pre-eclampsia in high-risk pregnant women. Pre-eclampsia, which comes dangerously high blood pressure, occurs in about three per cent of pregnancies. Earlier research suggested that vitamin C and E supplements could reduce the odds.

Safer sex on the rise
The number of HIV infections in southern India has decreased by a third among young adults over

2008. *Canada is the second-most viral nation in the world—behind Japan*

a five-year period ending in 2004. The slowdown in one of India's most heavily infected areas is attributed to the government's large-scale and AIDS effort.

POLL WATCH

Abolish it, India's
More publicists do it. Preliminary in America is a referendum—a poll found that 74 per cent say they've heard of it, and 60 per cent say they would support it. More than 60 per cent of people polled say they use the long list of false-letter politicians—the fraud.

Web nation
Canada has the second most wired nation in the world, behind Japan and just ahead of the United States. But the survey of 33 countries also found that regular Internet users increased only five per cent last year compared to 20 per cent in 2006. And in Canada and the United States, there was no increase at all.

MONEY

Nine toilets to clean
Environmental megafund Edgar Jones Inc. is shedding 25 jobs in Britain—more than US\$7 million an acre—for a new credit union in a tiny bridge hamlet, N.Y. The Warner Music CEO's new 3.4-acre compound includes a \$500,000 floor-to-ceiling style residence with eight

bedrooms, nine washrooms and four fireplaces—but only second-floor views of the Statue of Liberty.

Monets to modern
Starting this month, Montreal's art gallery will feature a collection of 19th-century paintings—valued at US\$10 million—by Georges and a friend, which

will be sold for \$100,000 each. The collection is the first of its kind in the city.



hasn't been seen in public for 100 years—available at the Bannockburn House Project, the Ontario's Frank Gehry designed museum in Seattle.

On the cheap

IDEA founder Igor Korpel—whose estimated US\$100-million fortune makes him the fourth richest man in the world—dines a 15-year-old Volvo and always flies economy class. The billionaire Swede, who counts Robin Williams as a friend, says, "People say I am cheap and I don't mind if they do. But I am very proud to follow the rules of our company."



KIDS THESE DAYS

Prison break
The number of young Canadian girls dropped sharply in the year after the Youth Criminal Justice Act came into effect—April 2003. There were 17,000 incidents between the ages of 12 and 17

overweight are 10 times higher in deep depressed children. It is

crisis, the researchers noted, that sleep, the most sedentary activity, might impact on the obesity epidemic.

THE WEEK AHEAD... NAJO, BERLUSCONI AND MAOIST REBELS

NAJO rebels will meet in the Moroccan capital of Rabat with officials from the so-called Mediterranean Dialogue to talk about such issues as illegal immigration, Ankara will decide if they want to go. NATO will discuss another series, as a deadline for a 10-day. And Maoist rebels in Nepal will begin a nationwide general strike on April 3, as their ongoing campaign against King Gyanendra, who ousted the government and took absolute power last year.

overweight are 10 times higher in deep depressed children. It is crisis, the researchers noted, that sleep, the most sedentary activity, might impact on the obesity epidemic.

Thick-headed geeks

Children with the very highest IQs have brains that develop more slowly in parts than normal. The brain's cortex, or the outer thinking part of the brain, grows thicker and then thins as a child grows into the teen years. A study in *Nature* claims that the cortex in kids with superior intelligence compared to those with normal IQs.

WILD KINGDOM

Hopped-up bison
Canada has done it: 70 bison to twice the wildlife population in the last 10 years. After the last bison roamed the west. The herd, which is growing for the first time in 100 years, will grow to 150,000 in the next 10 years. Scientists in Russia hope to eventually domesticate mammoths, which died out more than 10,000 years ago.

Cat on the prowl!

After analyzing 100,000 feline in a nature park, a Spanish ecology professor is convinced that the feline king is a wild cat. He believes the feline king is a wild cat. He believes the feline king is a wild cat.

Sleep well, stay thin

Self-made millionaire for parents to make sure children are put to bed on time each night. A study by University of London's faculty of medicine found a link between lack of sleep and weight gain in children between the ages of 5 and 10. Researchers concluded the risk of a child becoming

obese is 10 times higher in deep depressed children. It is crisis, the researchers noted, that sleep, the most sedentary activity, might impact on the obesity epidemic.

IN OTHER NEWS

Crude messages
Email and text message technology has made women more susceptible to sexual harassment at work, according to an Australian study. Perpetrators are increasingly using computers and cellphones to send pornography, threats and inappropriate propositions to women.

Nice lip liner, soldier

The U.S. army, which was once known for its strict rules on lip liner, has now changed its policy to allow soldiers to have tattoos on their hands and the heads of their necks, as well as permanent eye and lip liner for women. One army official explained: "The army in America. We are America's sons and daughters. America's sons and daughters are getting tattoos."

Stop the music

The Chinese edition of Rolling Stone will be shut down by the government in Beijing. The magazine said it was first issue last month, but officials say the local publisher did not properly register it. U.S. state

Endangered mermaid

The Little Mermaid may seem like a harmless fantasy character. But because of its popularity, it's become a real-life environmental issue. A Copenhagen environmental group is considering naming one of Denmark's most famous landmarks after the mermaid. The group is considering naming one of Denmark's most famous landmarks after the mermaid. The group is considering naming one of Denmark's most famous landmarks after the mermaid.

WEATHERING THE STORM



IN PASSING

Capitol Hill, former U.S. defense secretary and NATO's highest-ranking official, has been known as "Capitol Hill" for his hard-nosed pragmatism. But under Reagan he was known as "Capitol Hill" for his hard-nosed pragmatism. But under Reagan he was known as "Capitol Hill" for his hard-nosed pragmatism.

Giuseppe "Joe" Morelli, 67, a former fundraiser for the Quebec wing of the Liberal party. Morelli, often described as the party's "godfather," was one of the key figures in the Green Party's early years, where he was accused of soliciting cash donations and accepting unreported benefits for the Greens. He died of a heart attack in Florida. M



everybody should find the solution. Caribay is also looking for a way to find the solution. Caribay is also looking for a way to find the solution. Caribay is also looking for a way to find the solution.

So lonely it hurts

Loneliness may be bad for your health. In a study of 218 Americans aged 50 and over, researchers at the University of Chicago found blood pressure tended to be higher among individuals with interpersonal contact. One scientist speculated the difference may be because older people have fewer people around as a challenge or a stress.

Another missing link

Polynesian fossils, working in Ethiopia's Gona River basin,



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personal life or politics. The reality about politics is that it is the arena where human disagreement is worked out. Disagreement does not have to be personal, it does not have to be winner-takes-all.

A Didn't you work for Pierre Elliott Trudeau or one time?

Yes, I did, in '68. I worked for Mike Pearson, brother-in-law to Jack.

1964 as a high school student. I ran a news bureau in the '60s when I thought I was a big shot. I was a Trudeau delegate in the '60s convention that chose him, and then worked as a national youth organizer in the party that summer when we won that great majority. So I watched a young politician, pretty inexperienced, become a leader in front of my eyes. This time, you will be compared to Lucky Pierre...

No, you aren't making comparisons. It's extremely important to say there was one Trudeau, there will not be another. My model in politics is not Mr. Trudeau, much as I admired him, my model is Winston Churchill, the pure idealism of a noble patriot. That courage you have to bring from me is that this is going to be very tough. I don't rate my chances especially highly. I haven't gone into this with a sense that it's all the way up to the top, absolutely not. It's a major battle, multi-fronted, in which a lot of stuff can happen and that you can't control. You make one mistake and you're toast. I don't think I'm necessarily going anywhere, and that's the theme to God's truth. I'm going to give it a shot.

The Liberal party success has been based on policies that fall somewhere between classism and equalitarianism, a form of social populism with an extended shelf life. Is that your vision of Liberalism?

Liberals have tried to make that balance, but one of the challenges for the future is to sustain the egalitarian premise of Liberalism in the face of a new competitive challenge in the global economy, because the entire Canadian social model—health care, pension, income security—depends critically on having an economy that is world class, and we're slipping. We risk slipping down the lead cable and being unable to sustain either the Canadian social model or the employment of our people. And I don't want to be in a country in social decline, I want to lead a country that is dynamic and growing.

Politics in Canada has always been the art of making the necessary possible, but is it now feasible a coalition surge is lead. Do you feel that you are at a crossroads politically?

I don't know whether the country needs healing, but the party—and party I love—isn't doing. We've fought each other much too much. We can't lead the country, or aspire to lead

the country, unless we heal, unless we unite, unless we decide that our tried warfare is over, truly over. I'm a person who listens very carefully, I'm a person who listens, I'm a person who believes that in politics you have to have the courage to have a party in which people can disagree civilly with each other. So the balance is not so much healing in the sense of discussing a kind of balance over everybody, it's creating a space within the party, and then within the country, in which we can explore our differences peacefully and civilly. Healing is the wrong word. It's the peaceful re-examination of discord that seems to be the art of politics.

I wrote recently that even when socialists were attacking they're dead, nobody believes them. That's true (good) Canadians have become, not just about politics but about the democratic system itself.

Canadians are skeptical about politicians on the one hand, but tremendously hungry for honesty, compassion, multifaceted. I felt in Eschscholtz-Lakeside, when I ran for public office, that there were some people who threw you off the porch steps as a rogue and a thief like all the others, but there were others—and more of them—who want someone who is multifaceted, "I don't have all the answers," who's unafraid to listen, who's willing to hear the bad news, and has a strong ethics of public service, and doesn't want to give them easy answers and false consolation. The most fundamental in Canadian politics is to understand the intelligence and the civic pride of the average Canadian voter.

Q I would argue that Stephen Harper is not a class the political center, not as the new heifer system, but as a tactic. Does the centre reflect your values as opposed to your strategy?

The vision or the idea of Canada that I see in Mr. Harper is of a so provincialized Canada, a Canada that slowly keeps the duty to equalize between regions and equalize between Canadians—a vision of Canada which turns its back on the positive role of government in maintaining infrastructure, building equality of opportunity. Mr. Harper's crucial weakness is that he doesn't understand the deep longing of Canadians to feel a common spine of citizenship, a common sense of rights and allegiances, values that provide a roughly comparable standard of service right across the country. He speaks for a Canada in which the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. It's a much more negative representation of the country than most Canadians are comfortable with. What I don't want to do is try and scare the country with Mr. Harper. I respect him deeply as a political strategist. He's brought his party together,

he's achieved a great success in Quebec. This isn't best an enemy you don't respect, and I respect him, but I disagree with him respectfully on the issue of what Canada is.

Does that mean you want Ontario to reform and expand its powers?

No. Don't mark me down as a Trudeau cynic here. The history of our country, as you know, shows that provincial governments have been tremendous sources of political innovation in Canada. You just have to think of Tommy Douglas in Saskatchewan, but also so many of the social programs that



'I'm not and will never be an American. My students at Harvard knew one thing: I was that funny Canadian.'

we felt in Canada across the board began their life in Quebec, la province—châlière—for one. So, I'm among believers in federalism as a laboratory of social reform and political innovation at the provincial level. I don't want a strong Ontario. I want a strong federation tied together by a common spine of citizenship, and common agreement among provinces to what we see the basic strand and that all Canadians should take for granted as an entitlement of being Canadian. That's my vision.

We're the only politician I've ever who talks in sentences out of context from Will this be a super handshake?

It could be said, Peter M.



The world watched as the mighty powers hit the ice. But only a few knew the real drama that led our country to the greatest hockey victory ever!

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SPRING BREAK SUMMIT

In Cancún, soldiers joined the tourists on the beach—only fitting for a meeting dominated by concerns over security and commerce

PAUL WELLS REPORTS FROM THE CONTINENTAL SUMMIT

The beach at Cancún is an endless ribbon of sand at the edge of an ocean so sun-dipped and turquoise it almost hurts your eyes to look. The effect was hardly spoiled at all last week by the sight of a half-dozen Mexican gunboats riding the waves, while military helicopters flew overhead and security forces in dark uniforms threaded their way along the beach, periodically dodging the occasional well-tanned and deep brown-skinned

So the beach town's agless preoccupations, commerce, collided for a few days with the need for increased security. And no wonder: George W. Bush was to be greeted by Mexican President Vicente Fox. The two were joined by a man Scott McClellan, the White House press secretary, reportedly called "Prime Minister Martin" in a briefing a few

days before the big summer meeting began.

That would be Stephen Harper. The rookie Prime Minister was joining his colleagues for a summit whose preoccupations were in the name as those that had led to the beach: commerce and security. The Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America, which Bush and Fox signed with Paul Martin last year in Washington, was meant to bring the three countries to closer cooperation as they can maximize the flow of goods and services across their borders, while minimizing the flow of terrorism and domestic migrants.

That was the embryonic partnership's first and most important. Before it was over, Harper had announced there will be a third summit just in Canada. It's starting to look like permanent

part of the North American landscape. For the new Prime Minister, the challenge was to show that he can continue the work Martin started without carrying his predecessor's weighty political baggage wherever he goes.

This meant seeing a healthier face for his relationship with Bush, without slipping into any of the backslapping and toothy folk-tune-singing that made Brian Mulroney's relationship with Ronald Reagan get on so many Canadians' nerves.

But first, there was a round of racial prelections. The Prime Minister had originally planned to fly to Cancún from Ottawa on Thursday and head straight into bilateral meetings with Fox and then with Bush. That schedule would have fit the no-frills, down-to-business route he has set since his Jan. 23 election victory. But Fox urged Harper to come a day earlier and kick off the festivities with a three-hour visit to the majestic pyramids at Chichén Itzá.

The pyramids were built by the Maya. Perhaps Harper saw parallels to the Liberal Party's ancient ball-court complex that seemed set to lose an identity, but today after that leaders began engaging in behavior of human sacrifice. And the Mayan

pyramids, like the Aztec pyramids, were built by the Maya. Perhaps Harper saw parallels to the Liberal Party's ancient ball-court complex that seemed set to lose an identity, but today after that leaders began engaging in behavior of human sacrifice. And the Mayan

leaders, like José Gaitan, didn't shrink from the prospect of running up a few flights of stairs. Harper is less robust. He walked up the steps of the pyramids on the Temple of the Warriors with Bush and Fox, commenting wryly that the famous steps "weren't made for big guys like us."

After lunch, Harper got down to business of a more prosaic sort. He and Fox considered easy chairs to chat, while their senior staff stood each other in parallel Red Rover

er was leader of the Opposition, but this was their first meeting, wheels of government. Or rather, their first business meeting. Harper had booked a half-hour ride in Bush's helicopter to get to the photo op at the Mayan pyramids, then to a Harper appeared they had enjoyed. "A good discussion in cramped circumstances." Given the chance to spread out, the two men reported they had had a good discussion.

"I appreciate his steady resolve to get things

to require "passports or passport-like documents" for any trip across the U.S. border would hopefully bring up every border crossing in the country.

What, precisely, had Harper said to impress his audience and satisfy media on Bush? Harper wasn't telling. "I don't repeat on private conversations," he told reporters later. But he added that he knows for expressing himself, "not only clearly, but also fairly and reasonably for public television." He noted as he telling as he had seen at the President. That's one way to get his attention.

The meeting was short on "deliverables"—concrete announcements of future government action, of the sort that officials usually work hard to make up in advance of such meetings. Bush and Harper said they will urge their governments to look once again for a solution to the southern-drug traffic. They will get the NORAD continental defense treaty ready to be ready before it runs out in May. (But there was no mention of Bush's cherished ballistic missile defense project, from which Martin absented and which Harper seems in a hurry to join.) In the absence of immediate announcements, they seemed to expect some will come soon. Bush invited Harper to Washington in June to continue their work.

If there is a new need in the relationship between the White House and the rest of 24 States Drive, the only evidence



pyramids, like the Aztec pyramids, were built by the Maya. Perhaps Harper saw parallels to the Liberal Party's ancient ball-court complex that seemed set to lose an identity, but today after that leaders began engaging in behavior of human sacrifice. And the Mayan



MOVE IT ALONG: Mexican marines at Cancún, and indigenous dancers at the Mayan ruins

lines of duty. "Together they agreed that Mexican gunners might help help about short ago in Canada, especially Alberta, and the security problems from the country should with the other to work on your research and tracking initiatives. So far, so good."

Harper's face-to-face meeting with Bush followed. The two had much to talk when Harp-

done," Bush told reporters. "I want to thank you for your candor," he added, turning to Harper.

Canadian officials had Harper hedged Bush for later progress in working the agless dispute over Canada's softwood lumber reports, and had conveyed Canadian fears that a requirement created up by the U.S. Congress

PHOTOGRAPH BY AP/WIDEWORLD; COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE; COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE; COURTESY OF THE WHITE HOUSE



1999 ON THE EDGE: Ross Clarke yells at activists, sailors on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a gift at the Tanner factory

THE GOOD HUNT

Sealing isn't irresponsible. It's a living.

BY MICHAEL FAISGLAULT On the second day of the St. Lawrence seal hunt, René Gauthier stands his 45-foot Diane Basc away from the icy coast and hauls gear and fish onto a wharf on the northeastern tip of Quebec's Magdalen Islands. He spends his heavy day and then packs traps, his plus-size dockside vessel for a night or two, unloads the 11 pelts his crew did collect, and then heads back to sea for another try. By the time he reaches dry land that Sunday afternoon, nearly everyone in Grosse Île—population 166—had seen the patient.

The day before, a photographer covering the opening hours of the hunt stopped René Clarke in mid-stream, his mouth wide open as he tossed explosives in a boatload of animal rights activists. A member of Clarke's crew tossed something more tangible and gaudy. Within hours, news of the angry confrontation—and the captain's audacious headbush—was all over the Internet. One promoter threatened to call the Moonies.

"Temper flare," Clarke explains two days later, as he and his crew make a dash aboard the boat for a second round of hunting. That time, the 29-year-old pacha has one concern, hoping to catch a few protesters crossing that fine line between activism and interference. "We've got a bunch of activists running around in orange suits and you're trying to hurt," says Clarke, dressed in a smooth gray army parka and a blue

baseball cap. "Any hunter, after a couple of hours, would get pretty pissed."

Indeed, all across the Magdalen Islands—and Eastern Canada, for that matter—it is hard to find single sealers who isn't annoyed. And rightfully so. For decades, their way of life has been eroded and dismantled by people who, many claim, have never looked at the seal in the eye, let alone stopped to ponder what it must be like to depend so heavily on something so unforgiving and uncomfortable as the ocean. Instead, strangers from all corners of the globe mark the arrival of spring

"YOU GOT A BUNCH OF MILLIONAIRES RUNNING AROUND IN ORANGE SUITS AND YOU'RE TRYING TO HUNT"

by destroying Canada's club-wielding fur barons, those angry murderers who bush-shoot for a few laughs and a few fur hats. Baiters are organized. Petitions are signed. Weblogs are built, most begging for donations to help ease the poor little seals.

For moment, poi inside emotions ignore that quarry fishing that fills your stomach at the first sight of blood-stained ice. Forget about how adorable seals are, how unfair it must be to be trapped on the bond with a wooden club. Now consider this: though it has only a few weeks, the season here is a multi-million-dollar industry, one that cre-

ates hundreds of jobs in rural regions where employment is sporadic at best. Not, for the most part, a primary attraction, but the blubber is equally valuable, so rich in omega-3 fatty acids that healthy food stores sell seal oil in capsule form. The meat, by the way, is also delicious, a delicacy in butcher shops and restaurants across the Magdalen Islands.

Elsewhere inside, the seal hunt is neither riskier nor irresponsible, this year's quota of 335,000 keep seals amounts to a tiny percentage of the overall population, which, since the 1970s, has tripled to 5.5 million. And—despite how it looks, the hunt might seem to someone who has never stepped in seal blood—there's nothing to it. It's just a chicken in his chicken salad comes from—the club bag of a cute baby seal is no more brutal than

what happens every day inside a typical slaughterhouse. It was one who slaughtered on an ice patch, it would have been the same old story. But of course, it wasn't a slaughterhouse that Paul McCartney and his wife, Heather, visited last month. In winter ice floes, drock fall off—you passed it—pretty and pugs. The former Beatle is just the latest big name to throw his celebrity weight behind the battle to ban the hunt. McCartney and Brigitte Bardot are also on the list, joined last week by Bopha's son Prince Andrew, who is demanding a sit-down with Prime Minister Stephen

Harper. "Any good Canadian who frequently travels abroad," the former Playmate said, "I am alarmed that people are starting to see Canada as a country more beholden to a pack of greedy hunters and to the selfish 'activists' who are a few quarters short of the international justice against the hunt."

Clearly, that is hardly the worst that comes to mind after spending a few minutes with René Clarke and his crew. These are men who have gone days without a good sleep and many more without a paycheck. Men who have spent the winter collecting unemployment insurance, praying that once March, they will find enough seals to cover their overdue bills. "You're just surviving, not really living," says Ryan D'Amie, smoking a cigarette inside the cabin of the Diane Basc. "We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't really need it." He is surrounded by Jacques Carrière, the Magdalen Islands is a collection of a dozen small islands linked by narrow causeways and graveyards of fishermen. Located 175 miles off the shore of Prince Edward Island, the Îles de la Madeleine are, literally enough, shaped like a giant fish's tail, with a single highway—Route 199—connecting one end to the other. Working past the chaos of oceanfront homes while peeling through a blob of crystals. Each home is painted a brighter color than the next. Pink. Lake Ontario. Purple. Many front lawns are lined with lobster traps.

Nearly all of the 13,000 people who call the place home use most their time in the sea. For hundreds of years, residents have trod the Gulf of St. Lawrence for crabs and cod and herring and mackerel. But it is the seal hunt that has always marked the start of the fishing calendar, first in the Gulf, then later

this month off the northern coast of Newfoundland and Labrador. There was a time when islanders would actually walk to their traps, logging house three or four miles at a time if they made it home at all.

Those who want nothing more than to see the hunt abolished often point to environmental and economic benefits. Any profits are "re-

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WORTHY LIE: Paul McCartney and his wife got it wrong—those whitest seals are not hunted



MEAT OF THE SEA: Ron Claude Lapierre, head of the local sealers' association, and his son, Tommy Lapierre's crew

past. After expenses, Lapierre says he will be lucky to take home \$1,000.

"Wherever they were, and I stayed away," he says of the anti-sealing activists, who return to the Gulf every year to film the hunters as they ply their trade. "It bothers us. A lot of people, they depend on this." Lapierre is not naive. He knows why sealers think the worst. The blood on his deck. The hundreds of seal hearts, destined to be branded and fried like veal cutlets. But looks, he insists, are deceiving. "We're not hurting them," he says. "They're not suffering or anything like that. What we kill 'em, it's quick and lean."

An independent scientific study reached the same conclusion. The 2003 report, released by the Canadian Veterinary Journal, showed that 96 per cent of seals died during the hunt were killed "in an acceptable humane manner." Jean-Claude Lapierre has pointed that out more than once; he can remember. As president of the local sealers' association, he spends as much time talking to the media as he does hunting. Nothing bothers him more than the seal bans, the anti-sealers' right to peeking photos of family whites—right

beside hyperlinks urging people to take out their credit cards. The ones, Lapierre says, too readily forget to mention that white-comes have not been commercially hunted since 1987. "They don't tell the truth," he says, standing beside his rainbow, Manu's River. "All kinds of lies go on this site, and the money comes in, come in, come in."

When the pelts come in, most go to Tanna, a small processing plant not far from where Lapierre is standing. Inside, workers dressed

THE HEALTH BENEFITS OF OMEGA-3, AND NOT THE PELTS, MAY DRIVE THE HUNT IN THREE OR FOUR YEARS

from head-to-toe in green plastic sweatproofed pelt after pelt down an assembly line. One machine skins the blubber from the fat. Another draws the pelt's webbing out. Yet another squares every last drop of oil out of the blubber—and that will later be transferred into pills loaded with omega-3 fatty acids.

In the lower office, which smells no less fishy than the factory floor, Bernard Guimond, he wears away at his laptop, a cellphone nar-

price hanging down his chin. He is the public face of the seven-year-old company, the man who travels to Europe and Australia in search of buyers. Last year, Guimond exported nearly 20,000 raw seal pelt costumes, the bulk of them to customers in Norway, Finland and Greenland. More will become garments, like the winter jacket hanging in Guimond's office. The fat is dyed "Adidas blue," the colour of the ocean. "Everywhere that I'm wearing it," he says, "there is nobody that is not saying, 'What a gorgeous coat!'"

Guimond is a professional visionary, although Guimond refuses to disclose exactly how much is made. What he will say is that the seal hunt makes two months of full-time employment for more than 50 people on the Magdalen Islands. But to sell the historic commodity, but in three or four years, as scientists continue to discover the health benefits of omega-3, Guimond expects the oil—not the pelts—to drive the company's bottom line. "We have to make people know what we're doing," he says. "It's a tough, tough game, but I do believe somewhere, somehow, the message is starting to come across."

Christine Lobache currently doesn't need convincing. Like the ban for decades, the 19-year-old mother of three—and Ron-Claude's grandmother—is standing in her kitchen in Pointe aux Lacs, waiting seal flippers to be boiled for her stove. When they're finished, she will peel the meat from the bones, carve it into two-pieces, and stuff the third product into dozens of Marion jars, preserving today's catch for tomorrow's meat pies and stews. "The most important thing is to get the fat off," Lobache says, offering a sample from her silver bowl. It tastes a lot like wild duck.

"There's nothing else here except the fishery," says Lobache's son-in-law, Dave Chelie, who brought her the flippers, 40 pairs in all. "We're fishermen, we're hunters, and we've just trying to make a living—just like every one else." ■

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WHEN YOU NEED A NURSE WILL ONE BE THERE FOR YOU?

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PREPARING Christine Lobache cooks seal eels, putting it in Marion jars for her meat pies



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Lori-Ann Muenzer, Olympic Gold Medalist

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NATIONAL

The next hockey fight

For the CBC, Hockey Night in Canada is a tradition. But its commitment to big ticket sports is not what it once was.



IT IS NO TIME: CTV has demonstrated a willingness to open its wallet. Can the CBC counter?

BY JONATHAN GATKOWSKI • When the NHL locked out its players last season, Canadians got a sense of how long a winter Saturday night could be. CBC replaced its flagship *Hockey Night in Canada* with fading Holly Wood Bushes (*the Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars*). The ratings were respectable, but a year later those who like to dress up in Canucks, aren't appointment television. The network's new focus seemed to be its mascot, and the chase for the Stanley Cup is back, lifting the public broadcaster's spirit. However, if the numbers swelling in television circles are true, the CBC's new focus could look a lot like its recent past. Could the winter of 2011, the NHL's Canada on broadcast rights could switch hands for the first time in more than 30 years. And those hard luck teams in sports where the "Mother Corp." remain there, and only, *disaster*, may find *troupe* of *Moon* "Rocky" Richard as close as the CBC will get to our national sport.

CTV, Canada's leading and most lucrative private network, is rumored to be readying a bid for the NHL rights when they come up for negotiation next spring. TSN, the company's sports network, currently holds the national cable rights—also up for renegotiation in 2017. Network spokespeople won't discuss their plans. ("The competitive reasons we simply don't talk about programming strategies," says CTV's Mike Gosselin.) But one thing seems certain—the cost will be steep. Unlike the United States, hockey ratings in Canada have remained high, and competition will only drive up the price. The CBC paid an estimated \$300 million for its current year "over-the-air" deal, and the cable package was far \$130 million more. But CTV, home to 36 of the country's top 20-rated shows, has already demonstrated a willingness to compete with the public broadcaster. In February 2010, along with Rogers Communications, it paid US\$151 million for the rights to the 2010 Vancouver Games and the London Olympics in 2012. The winning bid was more than double what CBC spent for Toronto and the upcoming Beijing Games.

The real question, however, is whether CBC will be willing, or able, to mount a big money counter offer. The new political climate in Ottawa makes it unlikely the corporation's budget will be increased anytime soon. In opposi-

tion, Stephen Harper's administration has criticized the CBC for competing with the private networks for content and advertising dollars. But Onda, his language minister, has already expressed about reviewing the broadcaster's mandate.

There are also signs of a change in direction coming from within the network. Last week, the CBC hired American film producer Fred Fuchs as its new head of arts and entertainment, setting the stage for an overhaul of its winter-line line. Executive vice president Richard Stenberg has been saying the network's main priority is now to tell "Canadian and entertaining" stories that Canadians want to watch "on large screens." And for all the renewed focus on entertainment, very little is being said about the future of sports.

Doreen Logan, a former CBC executive who now heads CBC's school of journalism, says it's time for a radical change at the network. "When they look at the ratings they have to be fairly concerned, if not panicky, about the future." For one thing, the scheduling demands of sports have marred with the ability to build ad air time of audiences, says Logan. And while politicians are not the economic partners for keeping them on the public airwaves, they are not the same.

Ralph McWhorter, who executive-produced *ABC* for twenty years, says a change of networks would be good for the game, and ultimately the CBC. "I don't think the CBC should be involved in professional sports. It's not their mandate." McWhorter would like the network to refocus on amateur sports, and lesser international events like the Commonwealth Games. "The way things are now, they are only in it for the advertising dollar to support other programming," he says.

Nancy Lee, executive director of CBC sports, points out the network is already doing more than its share to promote amateur Canadian athletes. In the past two weeks last month, her department covered the Paralympics, Commonwealth Games, three and two World Cup Championships, the World Figure Skating Championships and the World Speed Skating Championships. CBC has always faced competition for the NHL rights, says Lee, and has continued to hold them, not just because of money, but due to its superior production values and larger audience reach. And despite what the network says, as far as the CBC's concerned, it will very much be in the game. "I think hockey is important to Canadians," says Lee. "And that's why it's important to the CBC."

FOR THE RECORD

WHEN "SORRY" DOESN'T MEAN "SORRY"

"There are times when an apology is very important and appropriate but the legal implications have long been uncertain"—a G. Attorney General. While the legal implications of the apology, the fact of it, kind of in Canada. The act is intended for corporations, governments and individuals (including in civil suits or other disputes) to express regret without worrying that an apology is an admission of liability or could void provisions of an insurance policy.



'There is no middle path'

A NEW ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH HAMAS, WHICH CALLS FOR AN END TO THE JEWISH STATE

BY ASHLEY PORTER—The problem with democracy in that election was exactly as it is in this one, making the results somewhat unpredictable. The voters of Israel—one of the few democracies in the Middle East—proved that on March 28 when, contrary to expert opinion, they voted for a deeply divided parliament. Ariel Sharon's coalition, Kadima, drawn from both the left and the right of Israeli politics, ended up with only 26 of the Knesset's 120 seats. Labor, at its core, celebrated that they didn't lose ground, the right-wing Likud, Sharon's former stronghold, was precisely wiped out at 12 seats, down from 38 in the last election. Yisrael Beiteinu (Israel Our Home), a relative newcomer led by the right-wing hard-line Avigdor Lieberman, was rewarded with 11 seats. Shas, the Sephardic religious party, got 12, and the new persons' party, Gil, captured seven seats. Now, before the mid-May deadline to form a government, bargains will be struck, positions will shift, positions will be offered and announcements will be made as Kadima leader Ehud Olmert, who has served as acting prime minister since Sharon was reelected by a massive coalition in January, attempts to put together a coalition. Hounding those otherwise knowledgeable than the new government may well lead to a coalition the Knesset from the 15 Palestinian elections, in which voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots for the terrorist organization Hamas. For many Israelis, the question now is how—if at all—to continue the peace process when faced with

an enemy that is openly committed to the destruction of the state of Israel. Likud's Natan Shtronsky, who won the vote as "a clear indication that voters have returned to the nationalist camp." It is a consequence of this, given that many of his most supporters—including his fellow Russian immigrant—standards taken on former of Yisrael Beiteinu, an even more right-wing alternative. I met Shtronsky in his rather modest office in Jerusalem's old German Colony neighborhood. His life, his brilliant mind, his courageous stand against former totalitarianism and survival of solitary confinement in the Shatan gulag, are the stuff of legend.

OLMERT HAS ONE DAY MAY TO PUT TOGETHER A COALITION. AFTER, HE'LL GO TO JAIL.



But here in Israel, he sees another politician. "These elections," he said, "are not about any individual party. They are about universal consensus to the Palestinians. I registered from the government on May 2 to cease of [the political] Israel. Our one-sided action weakened the moderate Palestinians and strengthened the terrorists. Of course, we want peace and security, but how can we achieve that if the other side will not recognize our right to exist? If their primary aim is to destroy us? Look at the Hamas website: the only choice they offer us is between an immediate, or a slower, death."

Shtronsky is opposed to any kind of negotiations with Hamas, and says Israel should stand firm against pressure on this point. As for the Palestinian state, he says it will "a mistake to put ourselves ahead of the democratic process." His most recent book, *The Case for Democracy: The Power of Freedom to Overcome Tyranny & Terror*, is primarily about the definition of democracy as a tool to liberate people. "For Palestinians the choice was between corrupt tyrants and clean tyrants," Shtronsky says. "Hamas's goal is to clean house."

Shtronsky blames much of Likud's poor showing on Benjamin Netanyahu, who served as finance minister in the Shtronsky government before quitting over the Gaza war last year and then winning the Likud leadership in December after Sharon left to establish Kadima. "Netanyahu left the Knesset," he says. "He was too busy with the financial portfolio to focus on the need to provide ideological clarity, to be firm about what we stand for and why."

Nevertheless, pale and exhausted when he addressed Likud's disappointed followers after

the first rounds came in, Shtronsky said for the losses.

Using Herring, high on the Labor list, had kept less than two hours when he talked to me after the vote was cast on March 28. Herring will, undoubtedly, be one of the power brokers in the new parliament. Energetic, young and popular, the son of a former Israeli president, grandson of a chief rabbi, and daughter's generation enters a Jewish home in Israel on his mother's side, he is a Jewish minority. Despite his lack of a test, he was in a festive mood. "Our agenda will be social democracy," Herring said. "We need to improve the lot of our citizens, drive out corruption, pragmatism." And yes, he was a central, obvious alliance with the Palestinian "party" whose sole objective is to safeguard the rights of the elderly.

Labour has always been in the forefront of seeking accommodation with the Palestinians. Even now, Herring said, "We prefer a second process." But the Hamas victory has changed the equation somewhat. "At a minimum, before we make further concessions, daydreams of peace, and we have to live the agreement with the signs, and come terms."

Herring's former colleague at Labor, Avraham Burg, for more than 20 years a leading figure in Israeli politics and former speaker of the Knesset, sees the Palestinian situation somewhat differently. From Sharon's and Herring's "We cannot choose our negotiating partners," says Burg, who has left politics. "They, the Palestinians, had an election, a democratic process—transparent, dynamic, with ever-growing participation. They chose Hamas. We may not like what they chose, but Hamas is what we have. So, let us negotiate. Unilateral withdrawal will provide Israel with only the illusion of security, but not the substance. You cannot ignore the people on the other side of the wall. They anger, their suffering, as real as ours."

It is important to remember when listening to Avraham Burg that he, too, is Jewish anyway. His mother was a secular, secular woman. He is a Jew. His family was a hundredth of a century in the land of Israel. Before the creation of the state of Israel, when he was a young Jewish immigrant from Europe. He is, nevertheless, far from a compromise. Two peoples cannot live down to all of the land, Burg says. There has to be a meeting point, not just politically, but generally. "There is no middle path," Burg says. "We must move all the settlements and draw internationally recognized borders between a Jewish national home and a Palestinian national home. There is to be no option."

Anna Porter is a former book publisher. She is currently working on Knesset's list, a book about Jewish success efforts in Hungary during the Holocaust.

TIME TO SEND 'EM HOME?

Harsh new proposals in the U.S. Congress have sparked a free-for-all over illegals

BY LIZETTE CH. SANCHEZ—When newly elected U.S. President George W. Bush broke with tradition five years ago and made his first foreign trip not to Canada, but the north of his "anxiety," Mexican President Vicente Fox, pope and politician's dilemma in Ottawa. The message was clear: Bush and Fox were buddies since their days as governors, the GOP was warning the sending group of demagogues of Hispanic roots, and Bush would be looking south.

Five years, two wars and a political life time later, things look slightly different. Bush is accused of all his ignoring Latin America, and Fox has little to show for the friendship. There, as now, Fox's top priority has been more liberal treatment for the millions of immigrant workers in the United States. Bush said he would put an ambitious plan to create a guest worker program that would allow Mexico to enter the country and work legally. But last week, Fox left the Can. can't seem to get it done, while Bush has to deal with a Republican party deeply divided on what to do with the almost 12 million undocumented workers estimated to be in

ONE BILL WOULD TURN UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS AND THOSE WHO EMPLOY THEM INTO FULL-FLEDGED CRIMINALS

the U.S., of which around half are believed to be Mexicans. Instead of liberalization, the issue has exploded into a political firestorm focused on toughening immigration laws and border security.

The GOP-controlled House of Representatives has passed a bill that would turn undocumented immigrants (and those who employ them) from victims of crime law into full fledged criminals. That bill has sparked



AT THE BORDER—An Internet protest also showed disposable containers to people along the U.S.-Mexico border. Some of the results.

a series of massive protests in major American cities, with threatening to destroy the substantial damage Republican have made with the growing tide of Hispanic voters. Meanwhile, the border is embroiled in an ongoing race for the first who can get the most votes in the new election.

Senator John McCain, an Ed and Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat, has proposed a more liberal bill that would allow the illegal immigrants to become legal and put them on a lengthy path to citizenship if they paid their back taxes and a fee, among other hurdles. The policy is controversial, as backed by moderate Republican. After Speaker, has called measures that compromise between the two proposals and the House version. Yet another bill would allow workers home after several years. Meanwhile, the Senate majority leader, Bill Frist, who is making a rights argument for the Republican presidential nomination in 2004, is pushing a border

The Fuller life

MEDIA QUEEN BONNIE FULLER TALKS TO LINDA FRUM

By Linda Frum

Bonnie Fuller leads an overcommitted, "jammed-to-the-gills" life. She thinks you should too. Fuller is a wife, mother of four, and the editorial director of *American Media*, where she writes 21 magazines, including the celebrity newsmagazine *Star*. She is also the former editor in chief of, among others, *Elle*, *YM*, *Comet*, *Glamour*, and *Us Weekly*. Her latest credential is that of single-handed-about-as-fine. In the new book *The Joy of Being Too Much*, Fuller, a Toronto native, encourages readers to "plug into living," embrace a "happily unbalanced life," and commit themselves "too." After preparing a dozen possible interview topics to Fuller's assistant, I finally managed to catch up with her, via telephone, during her husband's six weeks in Wyoming.

Right. I really appreciate you doing this interview on your mission.

Will I appreciate you agreeing to talk to it? It is.

That's no problem. There you live! Proof, I suppose, that you have "much too much" going on. Even you must have days where you think, "Gloria! It's much too much!"

Of course.

Your book—which is written—is positioned as a how-to guide. The wondering of it's not better understood as a how-to.

After all, how many women out there are capable of being there in the first place? You do.

I think that every woman has dreams and hopes for herself. And I want to encourage her to go for them. I don't want her to be overwhelmed by them geographically—or at all—because the truth is she needs to make a small island of "Solomon's chair" in order to be perfect at her career and also perfect as a mother and wife.

Now believe that true "success" means having both a career and a family. You don't believe that just one or the other is enough?

I don't think you should have to make that choice. I'm a proponent that the road to the greatest happiness is to have a husband, children, and a career.

You've had a great career advantage in that your husband has been happy to take on the role of caretaker in your four children,

who range in age from 19 to five.

My husband was able to take on the same role at certain times in our marriage. Right now he's working very full time.

I was wondering about that. You make such a persuasive case for your husband being so excited it is to pursue "the big life and the great career." I imagined that it might be a bit of a stretch for him to do.

Every couple needs to make the decision just work for



Family

Bonnie Fuller (left) at her office, with her two daughters, Sofia and Leah, and a guest at the New York opening of the *Star* show store, with her husband, Michael Fuller, at the world premiere of *Love Actually*.

them. Maybe you take time. Maybe you both can perfect your careers with great energy and make great

arrangements for child care. Being able to work more, because your husband can support you, is a choice that only a limited number of women have.

Your husband being it to be earning an awful lot of money for you to be able to do that. Whenever I read articles suggesting that it's all too much for women, and they should just settle—well, that's not an option for most women.

How do children fit into that? Kids like to have their mothers around. I'm sure your kids complain when you are gone. I'm sure they desire to have more of your time than they get.

I work really hard to spend time with my kids. And I think that most women do. On

the other hand, I don't believe that you should drive yourself crazy with guilt over the time that you can't spend with them. First of all, you are working for them so that they can have a good life. You're setting a great example for them. I know my kids are really proud of me. And I include them in my career as much as possible. They have to come to the office and they have to go to different events with me. And once they're in the office, they are going to grow up, and most likely, they are going to have careers. And they will have a role model. So I think that's a good thing. The other thing is, we really have to under-



stand that mothers have never had as much time to just sit and play with their kids. Mothers since the dawn of time have had to work on the fields, bake the bread, make the clothes, do the washing. Mothers have always had a lot of things to do. Having the luxury to express ourselves as mothers and give a tremendous amount of time to our kids is new.

True. But for the upcoming generation of mothers—Generation Y—including in the history of time spent with children appears to be the new ideal. The women have a lot of things to do. Having the luxury to express ourselves as mothers and give a tremendous amount of time to our kids is new.

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ARIZONA'S PETRIFIED FOREST NATIONAL PARK (above/right) and the lightning at the B.C. petrified forest near Kamloops

The secret forest in B.C.

Some worry a rich cache of petrified wood could disappear

BY JARNA EPPSON • De Siquason and Dave Gosselin were following an animal trail deep into the forest. The recreational rock collector, or "rockhound," had driven from Kamloops, B.C., on a trail of mostly logging roads, and hiked up the moss-covered hill sides under the thick forest canopy for almost an hour before passing down a steep cliff into the valley below. "It's entered the petrified forest, an area where trees have been transformed to stone in a process that takes 10 to 40 million years."

Siquason, a housing assistant at an elementary school, recently encountered some logs. The petrified wood was heavy and had patterns of brown, black, cream, tan and grey. Staked together, they could not weigh gram patients and a tree's growth rings in stone pieces, and other chanks had cracks filled with sparkling quartz crystals. Capagolite, a mineral from Sicily, had first mined the site back in 1860, using a geological guidebook from the 1800s along with a GPS receiver and digital maps. Now, in the fall of 1995, he had returned with his geologist to show how he'd taken a particularly impressive log. "But we went to the spot," recalled Siquason recently, "and there was nothing but a big empty hole."

It turns out someone had misread the map and removed a large amount of wood. Collectors had been warned, only for removal. "It's upsetting to see this happen, because it

wasn't all that's gone," says Siquason, who specifies the conditions under which the secret location of the stone wouldn't be revealed. "You wish your kids could get a chance to see it."

Petrified wood is essentially a fossilized log formed when trees are washed down mountainside in flood plain or buried in ash bed and then covered by volcanic sand and silt. Over millions of years, water containing dissolved silica seeps into the buried logs, and crystallizes as quartz. Sometimes the process destroys the cell walls of the wood, but in other cases, the silica replaces the wood molecule for molecule, preserving every detail of the tree's original structure.

Since like this are scattered around the world—one of the more famous is Petrified Forest National Park in Arizona, known for its massive, some 60 feet preserved, beautiful colored wood. The mysterious Kamloops log is considered as high quality, but local rockhounds say the site is a large enough to be significant and it's on Crown land. Many other known sites in B.C. are on private ranch land or are located in extremely remote areas.

Petrified wood is sold as gem and mineral specimens, rock shops and over the Internet. According to Frank Tierney, a Vancouver col-

lector who buys and sells it, the stone starts at a good price, but it can be worth more if it's considered "gem-quality," meaning it has good colour, no fractures, and the growth rings are visible. Large pieces are used for landscaping material, while smaller chunks are cut and polished and made into bookends or jewelry.

Most rockhounds follow an unwritten code: they take only a few items. Frank Tierney says he buys only from collectors who follow the rule: "You got to know people. You see some with a truckload of stuff all of a sudden, and you know they're overdoing it." In B.C., you don't need special permits or permits, including permits, from Crown land (unless you use heavy machinery). Vivian Thornton, communications manager for the Ministry of Forest and Range, says the government is concerned about commercial collecting and the loss of scientific information, and is working to establish a permit system for fossil collectors. However, even with a permit system in place, it would be very difficult for a private to monitor the situation.

Rene Olsen has visited the petrified forest several times since he started working for the Kamloops Forest District in 1981. The district has an extraordinary collection of fossils and made that would make the site more accessible, and possibly begin a permit system to protect the site. The petrified forest is a natural wonder, which could be used to transport the heavy, fossilized wood. The petrified forest is designated as an old growth management area, meaning logging can take place there.

It's been four years since Olsen last visited the forest, but he's planning to check up on the situation that the stone is in. "There's been a lot of work done on the site, but it's not clear if it's still there."

Other petrified forests have been visited by private collectors. At the Forest Hill Petrified Forest, a private collector has been visiting the site for years. The petrified wood is a natural wonder, which could be used to transport the heavy, fossilized wood. The petrified forest is designated as an old growth management area, meaning logging can take place there.

TWISTER TEEN TOSS SETS A WORLD RECORD
Matt Sater, 15, was in his brother's trailer in Portland, Me., when he was picked up and thrown a record 390 ft. With a deflating pump, a tennis ball struck in a circle, and after the first toss, it landed 390 ft. away. Sater's toss was the longest ever recorded. Sater's toss was the longest ever recorded. Sater's toss was the longest ever recorded.

A demand for Down's

People wanting to adopt a Down's child are finding it takes years—there's a waiting list

BY CATHY GULLI • When Anna Dyckstad her husband, Len, discovered his intention to expand their family, Anna immediately began with a goal of finding a child and husband that their son and daughter had on going years earlier. She had chosen the place, including the house, the 10 up close to the bed.

Then she and Len assembled a shopping list: formula, bottles, diapers, wipes, nappies and a list of items. "We're prepared for a 10-year-old child," says the 31-year-old mother. But they may have to wait years for their special baby. The Dyckstads, who are from Edmonton, are among hundreds of people across North America looking specifically to adopt a child with Down's syndrome.

It's a group that's growing steadily over the past 25 decades. "The waiting list [for us] was a few families to see up approximately 1980 families," says Robin Steele, coordinator of the Adoption Assistance Program at the Down Syndrome Association of Greater Colorado—once of the few Down's specific networks that match birth and adoptive parents. The waiting list currently includes a handful of Canadian families, such as the Dyckstads, and Carrie Gosselin, a single mother of four from Castlegar, B.C., who contacted Steele after finding a child in need.

Most prospective adoptive parents of Down's child attribute their enthusiasm to positive experiences the Canadian children's welfare system has provided. Steele says that the system has been successful in providing a good match between birth and adoptive parents. "We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents. We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents. We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents."

Other phenomenon could also be at work, including the fact that the number of people wanting to adopt a child with Down's syndrome is increasing.



WAITED One Down's specific adoption group in the U.S. has 150 families on its list

adoption agencies are now making it easier to find a child with Down's syndrome. Steele says that the system has been successful in providing a good match between birth and adoptive parents. "We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents. We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents."

YOU CAN'T PICK YOUR FAMILY
Little things wives forget to tell husbands
When an Alisa, 21, wanted to adopt a child, she was told by her husband that she was not ready. She was told by her husband that she was not ready. She was told by her husband that she was not ready.

says Kristin Flint, executive director of the Canadian Down Syndrome Society, many people with Down's today continue to face discrimination, live independently and have jobs and relationships.

While Gosselin and the Dyckstads are open about the high adoption rate, they say they aren't making political statements. "I'm not out to save the world," says Gosselin. "I'm here to have a family." Flint, says, believes the kids are enough of a down. "They are really not lacking the idea that they are not normal and sad of what's considered normal," she says.

In Canada, no organization exists to follow or track Down's syndrome adoption. Prospective parents can put their names on a list of public and private adoption agencies, but no further channels have proved largely ineffective. The Adoption Council of Canada doesn't have data on how many Down's children are available across the country. And the Canadian Down Syndrome Society doesn't have a matching service—something that British Columbia prospective parents want. "Many adoptive parents do have written about who they think is going to join their family," says Gosselin, 37. "I would adopt a child with Down's in a heartbeat if one was presented to me."

One crucial point to keep in mind, says Flint, is that the children are all different. She has observed a popular misconception that Down's children are incapable for language and learning, and says prospective parents must clear their minds of that perception. "The same personality spectrum exists within children with Down's syndrome as with everybody else," Flint notes. Prospective parents such as Gosselin and the Dyckstads embrace those differences, no matter the way, which change from week to week in several years depending on the specific needs of parents and child. For now, American stories away those baby blues and blacken gathering close in an otherwise empty basket. She understands when Gosselin says, "All my kids are happy."

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Flint says that the system has been successful in providing a good match between birth and adoptive parents. "We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents. We've been able to find a good match between birth and adoptive parents."



Imagine a video game
that flexes your mental muscles
rather than your thumbs.



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that one was created for you—
a kid at heart, if you will.
Impossible, you say?

Aren't video games made for
12-year-olds who want to blast
away aliens or dinosaurs (or slither dinosaurs)?

Introducing *Brain Age*™. Train Your Brain in Minutes a Day™,
a new kind of video game that exercises your brain and
flexes your mental muscles—even with just a few minutes
of play a day.

Designed for the Nintendo DS—you know, that portable
gaming system that everyone seems to be talking about these
days—*Brain Age* features a series of fun, brain-sharpening
exercises. They range from reading and counting variations
and word memory games to drawing challenges. You can
also play the wildly popular Sudoku number puzzle
(without having to sweat on your head).

In case you haven't picked up a Nintendo DS yet, this
dual-screen gaming system features two color screens. One
is touch-sensitive, so you can use the handheld style to
write on it like a PDA. You can even turn the Nintendo

DS around and hold it sideways like a book, if you like.
Some of the mini-games in *Brain Age* also let you speak
into the Nintendo DS microphone. But unlike kids,
the Nintendo DS won't talk back.

By completing these mental challenges, the goal of
the game is to lower your "DS brain age" to 20, the peak
brain age, according to Dr. Ryuta Kawasumi, the Japanese
neuroscientist, whose work inspired Nintendo's video game.

An unlimited version of Dr. Kawasumi serves as the
game's built-in host—or, personal trainer—so he instructs
you on what to do and how you're progressing.

In other words, consider *Brain Age* a gym membership
for the mind. And you can climb on the equipment
anytime, anywhere—without fear of working out behind
the rusty guy with the short-shorts.

Go ahead, pick up *Brain Age*. And don't let your age



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**Hockey
fights!**

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**Masters
gone mad**

HOW COURSE CHANGES
ARE RUINING A GOLF
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Are you juiced?

FOR BASEBALL SEASON, THAT IS.
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PLUS

Commonwealth
medals, sweet sports
surprises, and Nick
Kypreos on the NHL's
deadline-day trades
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**ROGERS
sportsnet**

Nintendo
DS MADE WITH

STOCK IN TRADES



Which teams
got the goods
and which
ones got
fleeced: as the
playoffs approach, a
second look at some of
the NHL's best and worst
deadline-day deals

BY NICK KYPREOS

THE SLEEPER DEAL

THE PLAYERS: D Willie Mitchell traded to Dallas **THE ANALYST:** Wisconsin's D Martin Stouda and D Shawn Belle

THE POST-MORTEM: This trade makes Dallas into a bona fide Coy contender. Mitchell

isn't a bona fide Coy contender. Mitchell

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Willie Mitchell

BIGGEST UPGRADE

THE PLAYERS: C Douggie Polacek and W Sergei Samsonov to Edmonton

THE ANALYST: Wild get a first round pick, Bruins get C Marty Stastny, W Yan Stastny and a second round pick

THE POST-MORTEM: Edmonton has always

played well on teams with a defencive-first

philosophy, while Edmonton has a reputation

for trading chances with their opponent

Edmonton seems to be taking his time

adjusting, but has come in recently Samsonov

was the main "joked" player to be moved at the deadline, and the Oilers are

a better team now. That said, if they miss the

playoffs, their draft picks will seem like a

very good price

THE ANALYST: After losing his first three Oiler

stars, Edmonton went 4-2 in his first night

Samsonov talked 52, 54 in his first games

Samsonov talked 52, 54 in his first games

Samsonov talked 52, 54 in his first games

especially Ed Johnson's. But one of the

rules in the new salary cap world is that your

superstitions really are inevitable. If you

live one to injury you'll never find a replacement. Weir's case, in sports, make

a contribution to a struggling power play,

but none of them can replace Johnson's

THE ANALYST: Canada's elite defensemen,

all three have combined for 60, 65, 65

all three have combined for 60, 65, 65

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all three have combined for 60, 65, 65

SHOES TOO BIG TO FILL

THE PLAYERS: D Eric Weinreich, D Keith Connery and D Steve Brule to Vancouver Canucks as three

separate deals

THE ANALYST: Vancouver gave up the Brent

Stewart and Tomas Mezner, plus draft picks

THE POST-MORTEM: Three deals that were all

about plugging holes created by injuries

about plugging holes created by injuries

about plugging holes created by injuries

about plugging holes created by injuries



Doggie Polacek

BEST TRADE NOT MADE

THE ANALYST: C OJ Johnson stays in Florida

THE ANALYST: Panthers sign him to a 4-year,

\$11 million contract

THE POST-MORTEM: Johnson has gone from

being a solid player to a league superstar,

and he'd have cost a much higher price as a

free agent. The Panthers were a bit

gring him the contract, and if they can go



Keith Connery (L) and Steve Brule (R)



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The parks are opening up, the hot dogs are steaming, the beer taps are flowing—and we've got five burning questions that anxiously await answers this baseball season

BY BOB ELLIOTT

PLAY BALL

1 Are the revamped Jays headed for post-season play?

This winter Jays general manager J.P. Ricciardi, backed by Ted Rogers' promised injection of cash, walked into the free-agent market the way John Wayne used to belly up to the bar, with a Chicago-style steel wool of cash.

Ricciardi landed R.J. Ryan with a five-year, \$17 million deal, outbidding the New York Yankees in both money and prestige. The Yanks wanted Ryan to be their set-up man, but Ricciardi offered him the closer's responsibility. He'd also landed right-thunder A.J. Burnett with a five-year, \$15 million deal, outbidding St. Louis.

Ricciardi then traded for offense, acquiring first baseman Lyle Overbay from the Milwaukee Brewers and third baseman Troy Glaus from the Los Angeles Angels, whose power may finally fill Carlos Delgado's shoes in the lineup. Ricciardi closed out by signing Gold Glove catcher Bengie Molina to a one-year, \$4.9 million deal.

The Jays have finished third in the AL East for seven of the last eight seasons. This year the wild-card berth is within

their grasp if everyone stays healthy, and if the Yankees or Red Sox labor—a distinct possibility. The Yankees have an aging 22-pitcher in Randy Johnson, 41, and Mike Mussina, 36. The Red Sox rely upon injury-prone current Curt Schilling, 35, and David Wells, 43. The tie-in to all this will come in July's trade deadline, both clubs have the resources to improve, while Ricciardi may already have emptied his bag of tricks.

2 Will Barry Bonds find peace as baseball's home run champ?

Like Roger Maris and Hank Aaron, who both shattered Babe Ruth's home-run records, Barry Bonds gets little respect. He usually only hears cheers in San Francisco. The jays haven't allowed his swing he extends the season with 201 home runs—six behind Ruth's total of 714 and 47 less than Aaron's 755—and 1,293 RBIs.

What do detractors are accusations of steroid use, which he flatly denies. In the book *Game of Shadows*, two San Francisco Chronicle writers document how Bonds

• **BARRY BOND** (left) surely has Ruth, but outbidding Aaron in a long shot.



went over 100 home runs to increase his strength for the 1999 season. (Two more books about Bonds are in the works.) It is, the question that truly begs asking is: why did he bother?

In the seven years before Bonds allegedly began using steroids, he tallied 269 homers and 613 RBIs in 1,041 games, numbers that already had him Cooperstown-bound. Had Bonds delivered those same exact numbers over the last seven years—"just been himself," as the cliché goes—he'd now have a total of 850 home runs and 1,275 RBIs over his 20-year career. In other words, Bonds' purported use of the "juice" resulted in only 11 additional homers over seven seasons. It also resulted in 116 fewer RBIs, the result of a few fewer homers and a few more intentional walks.

Not only did Bonds lose respect, the use of steroids may eventually cost him the distinction of becoming only the fourth player to amass 2,000 RBIs. All he had to do was keep doing what he was

doing, not try to amaze. Greed may prove to be his undoing.

3 Can the White Sox repeat as World Series champions?

In baseball, the phrase "repeat championship" is about as rare as "local companion hiking." There has not been a World Series repeat winner since the Yankees in 1959.



and 2000, so the White Sox are up against the odds. Which is why general manager Kenny Williams took steps to turn those odds back in their favor.

Williams is signed free agent Jon Garland (three years, \$19 million) and Paul Konerko (five years, \$60 million). "That's two guys who wanted to play for the city or for me," said Sox manager Quince Gullett. "I felt proud of that. They certainly didn't sign because of the money. They could have got more elsewhere."

Williams also dealt center fielder Aaron Rowand to the Philadelphia Phillies for Jon Thome (with the Phils picking up \$7 million of Thome's salary), and moved Orlando Hernandez and Luis Vazquez to the Arizona Diamondbacks for righty Javier Vazquez, who pitched five innings in Puerto Rico's 3-1 win over the Dominican Republic in the World Baseball Classic. "We're not going to face a better hitting team than that Dominican lineup," said Gullett. Vazquez rounds out a spot this week.

lock starting rotation that includes of Freddy Garcia, Mark Buehrle, Jesse Crivello and Garland.

Unlike the Diamondbacks, Angels, Marlins and Red Sox before them, the White Sox look like even stronger or better to repeat. All that's left, Gullett says, is for the White Sox to win the playoffs. "Once you win a World Series, you're a winner. Now, hopefully kids will grow up Sox fans."

• **PAUL KONERKO** may get an impressive Sox lineup starting for another Series win.

4 Just how good can Pittsburgh's Jason Bay get?

Of history's 248 Canadian-born big leaguers, Jason Bay is the only one to win multiple of the year, which he did with the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2004. Now that Larry Walker has walked into retirement, Bay is ready to take his place as Canada's best major-league batter. And he's the tip of the Canadian baseball iceberg, with 20 Canadians on MLB rosters in 2004—the most since 1984—along with 93 in the minors and 650 playing NCAA ball in 2005.

Bay is also special for his cinematic route to success. While lefties Adam Lousen (Baltimore Orioles) and Jeff Francis (Colorado Rockies) were among the first two players selected in the 2000 draft, Bay was a stand-out pick by the Minnesota Twins in 2000 as a college senior with Georgia.

"We had a camp-day with the Expos in the spring of 2001—every major league, we traded them all, had them throw to the best, had them take batting practice," says

former Expos minor league manager Tim Lincecum "Jason was the best player I ever camped. All the managers wanted him on their club." And yet, after winning the 2001 last thing title in the Single A Midwest League, he won deals three times in less than 30 months, finally finding a welcoming home with the Pirates in August 2003.

Not a good sign, to be traded that often. But his stellar play—he was an all-star in 2002—has earned him a five-year, \$18.25-million deal with Pittsburgh. ESPN The Magazine's fantasy league preview ranks Ray third among all outfielders. Brian Whit, Team Canada's manager since 1999, calls him "the best premeditated, right-handed batter I've ever had in my lineup." Pirates manager Jim Tracy may yet find himself singing the same tune.



5 **Where his score is it, anyway?**

Baseball fans everywhere turn to the sports pages for the joy of reading, after all. Yankee Gary Sheffield's number 4-3-3-4. A

3-for-4 day, with three runs scored and four RBIs. Heen baby. That's because they have Sheffield under contract to their fantasy baseball team.

Fantasy leagues—also known as roto or rotisserie leagues, in which people "draft" teams

Bonds' use of the 'juice' resulted in only 28 more home runs. It even cost him 126 RBIs

of major-league players, with teams per farmstead based on real-life statistics—have helped rebuild baseball's fan base. They are a reason fans will stop at the middle of dinner at a sports bar to intently watch Sheffield hit. But the fun may even have the Yankees, as did his dad and his promise. But "Sheffield is on my team." Fantasy had made the game interactive and generated fan interest in teams beyond their home towns.

But is it legal? Major League Baseball bought the rights to those statistics from the players' association for \$50 million in 2002, and has licensed a handful of companies to use them—albeit fewer than the 20 leagues

granted the year before. Notably, MLB denied a license to St. Louis-based CBC Distribution and Marketing, a company that runs fantasy leagues for USA Today, MSNBC and others.

So CBC went to the courts to decide who owns the stats. MLB says they are intellectual property. CBC claims that its First Amendment rights allow it to publish the stats for free. The courts are headed to a Missouri court in July.

Whichever the outcome, the move won't help baseball win new fans. An estimated 15 million people "own" fantasy teams. MLB has as much chance of eliminating the leagues as Chicago had of shutting down the home cure during Prohibition. Whether it's newspapers, the web or good old juke at the office, cracking the nutters with pencil and paper, the stat books will keep fantasy baseball alive, even if they have to go underground. **B**

Watch the Blue Jays' opener on April 4... and 121 more Jays games this season on Rogers Sportsnet

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GAME OVER

GOLF FOR DUMMIES

Augusta National has taken the strategy out of the Masters



BY JOHN GORDON • Every time a CBS announcer repeats the mantra, "This is not like any other" during the Masters telecast, Bobby Jones and Alister MacKenzie must do the magic in their graves.

While the season's first major golf championship plays the celebration of one of the game's most honored tournaments, there is an increasing amount of head-shaking over the controversial changes being forced upon Augusta National.

When Jones, the greatest amateur golfer of all time, and MacKenzie, an architectural icon, collaborated on the layout which transforms a former tree nursery, they envisioned "an island links" in homage to the Old Course at St. Andrews in Scotland, where they both worshipped. Although the topography and vegetation couldn't have been, more different, they adapted out of holes where strategy was paramount. The broad fairways flowed from treeless to treeless. No rough. Only as bunkers. Large greens accommodated most decent approaches, but only shots hit from the correct angle were rewarded with close proximity to the hole and an opportunity for a birdie.

Changes began almost immediately after Augusta National opened in 1932. Early on, the mowers were reversed so that holes 11 through 13 (now known as "Green Corner") would provide a more exciting finish. Later then, a score of architects have either augmented or mangled the revised layout. Still, from the first Masters in 1934 until 1984, the course measured 6,625 yards long, par 72.

None of the earlier renovations caused the kind of controversy which has erupted since Augusta National chairman Hootie Johnson began "tiger-proofing" the course following Tiger Woods' 15-shot victory in 1997. Even though Woods' record total of 270 was only a single shot lower than Jack Nicklaus' in 1965 and Raymond Floyd's in 1986, Johnson believed his course was taking victims to the power game provided by club and ball technology.

In 1999, Johnson added a "second cut"—short rough bracketing the capes like fairways. Over the years, trees have been planted to patch the landing areas. Now Augusta National plays to 7,445 yards, still par 72. "We will keep the course current with the times," Johnson said of the most recent changes.

Many, notably first-time winner Arnold Palmer and six-time champion Nicklaus, vehemently disagree with his methods. Boes Woods, anchoring the 1999 green pick, has said that, especially if the course is wet, the changes "eliminate a lot of guys who have the skill to play but just don't hit it far enough."

Even in good weather, the effect of the post-1998 changes has been to eliminate most alternative routes to the pin. There's no point in attempting or taking risks, and little value in being a precise shotmaker.

Jones and MacKenzie certainly would have realized that lengthening and narrowing the course plays into the hands of today's power hitters. They would have chosen different methods: shrink the greens and raise the cutting heights of those putting surfaces to allow for more control, perhaps lengthen the grass on the fairways and rough to reduce ball spin and driving distance. Or take another page from the Old Course, and maybe elegant deep bunkers, some of them blind, perpendicular to the line of play, to provide the kind of risk-reward proposition they admired.

In any case, it's indisputable they would have been more imaginative than Mr. Johnson & Co., whose latest, stretched version of Augusta National includes a 345-yard par-3 and at least one par-4 in excess of 500 yards. In golf, as in so many other things, length is easily overrated. **B**

Get daily reports from the Masters... with John Gordon and David Ray on SportsmanTV.



A LESS DARING COURSE FOR GOLFERS LIKE WOODS, OLAZABAL & WEIR



WOODS: GARY FARMER/PHOTO BY GORDON; OLAZABAL: JIMMY KNEASLEY/REUTERS; WEIR: GARY FARMER/PHOTO BY GORDON

SHOW ME THE MONEYBALL

The boys of summer have something new this year—a real chance to win

BY ALLEN ABLES • Major league baseball flies north this week on its usual wings of anime dreams, irrational hopes, serious dollars, go-servant-servants, and unchangeable losses.

No where is the game's terrain more boldly conspicuous and eagerly awaited than on the otherwise barren sporting stage of Toronto, where the Blue Jays will begin their 2006 season with a game against the Minnesota Twins. With the bankrupted Raptors a distant future and the hockey Maple Leafs now of living-at-once-nine-years-of-past-of-forever's power for better or, the city will have to take its consolation, at least until soccer's World Cup ceremonies replace midday spectacles for the multi-ethnic metropolis.

THE FEEL-BASED: Ranger Molina, catcher

"Jays made into Al. For sure," bellows the cover of the *Athlete* sports baseball manual (an ex-Canadian edition). The senior analyst for FOXSports.com in the United States has recently joined the Jays' front office, and so forth. That was about staying has assumed professional baseball every spring since the 1970s, of course, but Toronto fans will know soon enough whether the rose-colored Jays' front office is a happy face or sad decision.

The Jays' front office is already a quarter-million dollars and 60 million ahead of 2005, according to team executive Patrick Ebersole, a recently Toronto that has been swept away on the fourth day of September. Radio stations Q107 in Rochester, N.Y., and Q107 in Rochester, N.Y., have been successful in selling advertising for Blue Jays broadcasts that view of their sponsors have had to accept being forced before and after the games.

"I love Toronto!" chirps Barb Bell, the *Saturday Night* station's manager, broadcast-



THE QUESTION MARK: A.J. Burnett, pitcher

er Robert Victor, who is remembered in the bullpen after only one season in Baltimore as a down-right-handed master from the Florida Marlins named A.J. Burnett with a long

BASEBALL WEARS TWO FACES: ONE OF DESIRES, THE OTHER OF DEEDS

ing a sentiment rarely heard from was of Ebersole: "But," she has to add, "I wouldn't want to live there."

As the root of the public outlook is a number of player purchases, exchanges, and acquisitions by the team's general manager, John Paul Ricciardi, a 46-year-old, one-time minor league infielder from Massachusetts who persuaded so many of the diamond game's owners to retire, the passing of the position from father to son, the rise and fall of the city of reaching the major leagues as a player, no matter the ending of a young man's dreams, and the comprehension that the game of our Little League childhoods is, at its highest level, a cartoon and corrupt life industry.

General's 40 per cent increase in disposable income by an owner Ted Rogers, Ricciardi disposed of it with alacrity and pledged the team's revenue for half a decade to a handful of analysts—plunging into a five-year goal that was rather shallow in support taken, compared to other years. The purchased prices included a Louisiana belly told told B.J. Ryan (even though his green me-

chine record was as close to the disabled list since 2000) and Jorge Molina of Puerto Rico and the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, a 34-year-old catcher who is shaped like Duke Ruth or a cloud of beer, which he is the same thing.

The debts, suffered greatly by the rise of the Canadian currency versus the American dollar, added up as follows: US\$1 million for one year to Molina (with an option for seven million more in 2007), \$40 million over five years to Ryan, and 150 million over five years to Burnett, who produced no runs against his team in his first season, leaving his status for Opening Day and beyond hanging by a thread.

Meanwhile, Roy "Doc" Haskins, the wonderfully soft-spoken and hard-throwing star from Colorado who never has pitched anywhere but Toronto in the major leagues, was granted a three-year, US\$15 million extension to take him comfortably to 2009. Vernon Wells (144.5 million through 2007) remains firmly in one field, and, in trade, Ricciardi acquired Troy Glaus, the New York



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able Player in the 2003 World Series and a slugger who has averaged 30 home runs per season on the majors, to play third base, and Lyle Overbay, another reliable power hitter, to cover first.

On the face of it, these moves provided Toronto with a veritable surplus of offensive punch-and-deep-ball punching, but baseball always has more than faces, one of defense and the other of do-it.

At the team's spring training home in Dunedin, Fla., last week, Ricciardi was aggressively vocal about Barrett's injury and impressively realistic about the lawsuit case against the sport, including any suggestion that his Christmas shopping might come with any sort of warranty.

Half a century later, his own son, James, is now a Toronto's weekend: the burden of a long-term contract, which may be the longest in the history of all.

J Ricciardi grew up in Worcester at about the time that Harvey Root Ball, another son of the same city, was inventing the yellow safety face to boost morale at a school newspaper company. Reprising his father's failed dream, J. Ricciardi took the New York Mets' origin story as a player, then turned to coaching and scouting and the front office and World Series's most recent spring endowment.

With the Oakland Athletics, he became all tied with Billy Beane. His father's online league

"Baseball was king when I was a kid," he said. "But now, I go by to my baseball fields in the Northeast in July and August and there's nobody playing ball. I don't know if it's long enough."

"Does that hurt you?" I asked him, but he put on a sunny face.

"It's still long for me," the general manager replied.

A few miles down the road, the engineer of the Jays' new showplace play was playing the same number game. At 34, Pat Gillick is wearing all over again with the Philadelphia Phillies, he third clubhouse leaving Toronto. The Phillies are the franchise that, in the 1993 World Series,

HALLADAY SIGNED FOR \$40 MILLION, AND WON PRAISE FOR SELF-SACRIFICE

"It's the price of doing business," he said. "We didn't create this market. When your grandparents go to the bank, they remember when they used to go and they're appalled by the price, too."

When J. P. Ricciardi's grandparents were in the delta in Worcester, Mass., they were shopping for it, until the day Papa's backyard Ricciardi factory exploded, leaving a widow with no money left.

Just minutes earlier, a four-year-old son named Jimmy had been about out of the shed, (likely saving his life for a future his mother never could understand).

"One time, my mother heard the radio, 'Johnny Ricciardi's still there today,'" the center Ricciardi said last week in the grand room at St. Francis, where his son's first Jays were playing Tampa Bay. "When I came home, he said, 'I thought you go to school? Why you need? You stay there back?'"

In the days, John Ricciardi was a big second baseman under contract to the Boston Red Sox. Unfortunately for him, even the great Bobby Doerr, bound for 14 seasons at Fenway Park, the Hall of Famer, and a role in the Blue Jays' first batting averages, was back in '77. "When I was playing Class D ball, I thought I was so good as those guys," John said. "I mean, why play if you don't think you can be the best?"

But, as is the case of most players, his abilities betrayed his ambition and, as a result, a season in New Brunswick with the Fredettes Capitanis, he was left to fend for himself in the real world of work. "My arms were so big, I couldn't throw the ball across the street," he remembered. "When I got out, it was a shame to come back to home, so I got all the people that not to my mother. 'What the hell, another doesn't want to see her son come home?'"

roommate and the proposition of a few cool, high IQ approach to the game that selected old school words and stats and has become popularly known as "Moneyball" (A third cousin, John Gillick, is the Jays' field manager). A strict adherence to Moneyball has kept the A's in contention as a reasonable cost over the years, but at Toronto, after a decade from the margins, Ricciardi's notion of a hard-hitting has changed philosophy.

According to a survey by USA Today, the Jays now rank second in all of baseball in the amount of money pledged to players in the coming decade—\$180 million, compared to \$180 million for the Yankees.

"We've taken on a huge mortgage," I suggested to J. P. Ricciardi in Toronto. "We've taken on a good house," he replied. "It's not like we're just throwing money at guys and hoping that it works."

As a boy, he had followed a Red Sox star fielder named Terry Coughlin, an older son of Italian Massachusetts and the youngest of seven in a large family. He was born in John. But was nearly eight when Coughlin was in the big with a pinch, starting his childhood and beginning a series of tragic events that ended with a heart attack at age 37 and death at 45.

"I remember how I loved the night he got hit in the eye," Ricciardi said, and this is how baseball is woven into the souls of those who love it from their earliest days, so tightly that a stranger's pain can cut to the heart.

"I wonder how many Indians Canada tried when Halladay was hit in the chest last year," I said.

That evening, from a baseball field, robbed the team's half of a half season, and, perhaps, overhauled a payoff for a year later, Halladay is perfectly healthy, but for too many children baseball has been transformed by the game of the Yankees. As J. P. Ricciardi said, "In general, we're happy we're not much than play."



THE STAFF AGO: Roy Halladay, pitcher

Gillick's Blue Jays ultimately vanquished on Jay Carter's anyone home run.

"There is a night-time of player salaries," Gillick reasoned, when asked about the Jays' elevated payroll. "If you're over \$70 million, you're probably got a pretty good opportunity to win if you're not over 70, you're just as well off being at \$10 or \$40 million. For the 2000, those who Toronto at \$100 million for the season, the Phillies at \$95 million, and the Yankees at \$100 million with no limit in the game." "The Phillies had club games as sufficient."

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Weighing Pavarotti

Unlike performers such as Andrea Bocelli, Luciano Pavarotti is a real opera singer. His retirement—marked by a farewell tour that includes Canada—means the end of an era.

BY JIMIE J. WEINMAN—Opera singers don't usually attract stage adulation, give the size of many opera houses, you could say they take up more of the theater than the audience. There certainly aren't any opera singers who could go on tour and make the lord of money and headlines that a pop singer does, or get gossip headlines on supermarket shelves. There is, really, only one: Luciano Pavarotti, whose farewell tour, "A Night to Remember," has already resulted in sold-out audiences in several cities.

This June, the farewell tour will take Pavarotti to Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver and Washington. And while many singers can go on tour in modest farewell tours, this one of concerns just might be the end of the Pavarotti career. He is now 70 years old, well past retirement age for most opera singers. Younger ones might, noted on Pavarotti's closing his way through Puccini in his Three Tenors concert with Plácido Domingo and José Carreras, may think of Pavarotti as a modern star who has passed his time as an opera singer, like Russell Watson or Andrea Bocelli. But Pavarotti is a real opera singer, and his retirement marks the end of an era. He is the last diva-level performer to become a major superstar, the way Leonard Bernstein and Simon Cowell did. Plácido Domingo, the second best-known opera singer of his generation, performs in more operas than Pavarotti; that doesn't have the same instant recognition outside the opera world. With Pavarotti gone, there are no more diva-level performers who can bridge the gap between the concert crowd and the pop audience, there will be plenty of fine opera singers, but there may never be another star superstar.

Like Leonard Bernstein, Pavarotti became a modern star through aggressive self-promotion. His is a singer, Herbert Breuer, made his debut, then famous by looking like a rock star, then to sing a hit and the voice it up with Johnny Carson. Breuer even got Pavarotti a starring role in a really bad feature film, *No, Georgia*, in which Pavarotti played

a singer who loses his voice and falls in love with the doctor who treats him. As critic Jerry Hochman wrote, "Recognizing that his own rough charm made him a natural for mass marketing, Breuer promoted him as aggressively as 'a bar of soap.'"

But Pavarotti wasn't always a bar of soap, he was a singer, and a very fine one. When he started singing internationally in the late '50s, he was instantly acclaimed as the best young Italian tenor in several years—one of the few Italian singers of his generation who could measure up to the greats of the past when it came to singing Verdi or Puccini. Record producer John Culshaw, who signed Pavarotti for Decca records (Pavarotti has recorded for Decca ever since), described his

wright made him an irresistible and unconvincing actor. And even his voice, though full in some, wasn't really resonant or loud enough for many of the roles he took on, so that he could stand or sing in public. In his receding days, this could be forgiven, but in live performances, his high notes didn't have the sheer impact of Caruso's or Mario Del Monaco's.

But if Pavarotti didn't have other singer's vocal skills, he had a voice that was unique in its own way. Most tenor voices tend to be a little husky or dark in tone, Plácido Domingo started as a baritone and often still sounds like one. Pavarotti's voice was light and gleaming, the carabosse of every quality opera fan associate with the high voice solo. Tom Kraft, a recording and concerting director for the Opera Quarterly, composed his music to that of the Swedish tenor Janis Hilding, except that Pavarotti had "a brighter voice [and] a more Italianate voice." His intonation of notes was better and clearer than almost anyone's, which allowed him to produce every note and sound clearly and beautifully. When he sang as a solo that he was particularly good at, like the *Requiem* from Verdi's *Requiem*, it sounded effortlessly beautiful in a way that even the great voices of the past couldn't quite match.



Pavarotti as Verdi's *Requiem* in Montreal at the Met (left), making a bow at La Scala (above).

retirement to his long the then-unknown performer. "The voice may not have been under perfect control and the singer's approach may have been a bit raw, but it was a big voice that sold up to a top C with apparently no effort at all."

Pavarotti had a different sound and style from other leading Italian tenors. The most popular Italian tenor of the '50s was Franco Corelli, a good-looking man with a huge, powerful voice that could fill any auditorium. After Corelli died in the early '70s, Pavarotti filled the void, and became a fan favorite, and a friend with companies like the Metropolitan Opera in New York City (he even in his prime, he had limitations to perform. His

performances also had something most tenors didn't: instant blindness. When Corelli, Del Monaco and Domingo were all around and doing looking on stage, Pavarotti seemed to stand and gave the impression that he really enjoyed performing. This was not something that came naturally to him, though. If you look at an early Pavarotti performance—like a 1967 film of the Verdi *Requiem* with Herbert von Karajan conducting, available on DVD—he looks nervous and a little stiff. He worked on changing that, and by the time he became a big star, he had his image. The happy face was who lives singing and lives his critic.

Corelli L. Culshaw, the great opera critic for *The New York Times*, called Pavarotti "a genuinely likable and engaging man with a sharp sense of his own appeal." As time went



PAVARETTO (clockwise from top right) with Linda Jones in *Rigoletto*; in *Il Trovatore*; curtain call for *André* at the Met

the more often he sang, the more strained he sounded. But Pavarotti was a big hit of five days, and Pavarotti would sing what the audience wanted to hear, even if it weakened his voice.

In a 1979 article, Osborne complained that Pavarotti's bid for superstardom had caused him to decline as a singer—and that audiences didn't seem to care. Describing Pavarotti's disappointing performance in a production of *La Bohème*, Osborne wrote: "It goes blankly, it is banal, but the audience reaction is wild—this is a personal appeal, we see it. I begin to form a rather surprising image of a happy, trusting, glib, and 'sensitive' well-known solo voice. Pavarotti's make choices, kneading his handkerchief and appealing to the audience for sympathy for all his hard work and sweet personality." By the time the *Elton John* concert started in the early '90s, Pavarotti was almost entirely a personality; he didn't appear on stage very much, he didn't take on new roles like very Domingo did, and he didn't change his temperaments very much. He was known less for singing and more for the breakaway of his first entrance: the radio's published photos of him with his secretary (whom he later married). He had gone from almost

unknown to worldwide fame, Pavarotti hasn't performed in public or recorded as much as he would, and he has become what some comic stars usually become: someone who gets nervous and called down more than he performs. After he left as the manager, director Bartlett wrote a tell-all book in which he alleged that Pavarotti can't read music and has to learn his parts by ear. Bartlett wrote about Pavarotti's weight gain and losses and his marriage and divorce settlements.

Talented voices, still soft, multiple star images and energy in superlatives: it's the life of a pop idol. When Pavarotti comes to Canada, he will come not as a superstar musician, but as a superstar whose image has lasted longer than his high notes. That may not put Pavarotti in the class of the very great opera singers, whose strength and more range and depth than his. But even if those singers couldn't get a stadium full of people to hear them. ■

Pavarotti emphasized his likeability—even if it meant ignoring the characters he was supposed to be playing

As Pavarotti did more and more things to emphasize his likeability and his ability to bond with an audience—even if that meant compromising or outright ignoring the character he was supposed to be playing, Osborne wrote about seeing Pavarotti in a performance of *André* where he seemed more interested in engaging for the crowd than putting himself in the story. "In the last act, he makes a joke of looking up Maddalena while looking over at the audience. Luciano has learned to keep on being Luciano while the opera is trying to take place. The audience would rather see Luciano than an opera, so it's total success."

As time went on, and Pavarotti started working harder on marketing himself to a mass audience, those same traits got more pronounced. Pavarotti had a public image that his audience depended on, and preserving

that image meant "being Luciano" at all times, no matter what the situation. He also began to pick roles that were more easily sung to his voice. Tom Kaufman says that Pavarotti just started to decline "when he started to sing roles that were too heavy for him." The first *Macbeth* from Pavarotti's repertoire, which he sang Pavarotti's signature piece, at really wasn't for a leader, however was that Pavarotti's, when he sang it, a rounded good, but it put an obvious strain on his voice, and

PERFORMANCE OF THE WEEK: AIR BROADWAY

On March 27, Airfare Airways launched its new daily non-stop service from Chicago to New York by surprising passengers with an in-flight Broadway performance. Featured some of the cast of the hit musical *The Color Purple*, produced by Quincy Wright. Based on Alice Walker's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *The Color Purple* is a haunting tale of sexual and sexual oppression. Passengers were also treated to stage lights and contemporary playbills.

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A Cape Breton songwriter is churning out singles for the likes of Faith Hill

Despite never having had an interest in new country music, Sampson, who grew up on Steve Nieve, Ike Vaughan and Hank Floyd, warmly embraced it. Music City "My dynamic in Nashville is so far removed from the formula of the writers in the cubicle in some office building," he says. "I don't really have the energy to write 400 songs and send for one to be a hit. Instead, we are conversing of one

Now he's hanging from Underwood's big sign. The rig was well, but was also a reminder of the intimacy of life on the road. After his divorce and a full night of partying, Simpson returned to his hotel room and found two strippers getting amorous in a bed. Not wanting to disturb them and a little too drunk to care, he grabbed a sheet and crawled on a secluded patch of grass outside of the hotel, close to the highway, in the pouring rain. The next morning, on very little sleep, he headed back to his day job in Nashvle with a funny story to tell—one that just might end on Tully Hall's next album.

Don't U wanna know The Word? / What's gonna come an when
them upstahs get out 2 U? / Spinning their sticky webs around
what U do / We gotta safeguard against the fiked dog and the
inequality of the wicked one / Get on, come on, let's do some-
thing! / Don't matter how far U have 2 / The Trash has got
2 be told / No matter how many U lips / They'll never be secrets
of gold from The Word, an Prince's / (Sax 3:12)



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Memoirists in a post-Frey world must satisfy a public dead set on knowing the facts

And just how sure can they be of that? When Fry's editor Nan Talese asked cheerfully on April 1, "Do you ask an author if his score is true..." host Winfrey interrupted.



started writing, I knew I couldn't rely on my memory," she says. "I hired a private eye with my own money to check out what he could. That is, I didn't think I was doing anything special—I thought this was what anybody did." Brown's timing hasn't been all that tough, at least. Frey, riding high before the scandal, didn't respond to her publisher's request for a cover blurb. ■

"A photo caption incorrectly stated that a county official said cows produce less colic than horses. Cows produce as many colic cases as horses. The Sun wrote to the effect: '...from the Los Angeles Sun.' In a March 22 story about the Indonesian Colic's signing of Mike Adams Visitation, the Associated Press incorrectly reported that he is a descendant of Gen. George Custis Visitation is a descendant of Custis's brother-in-law."—from AP

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IN NORTH WIND The Rane-Carlson's male model turning butler wears designer swimwear and sports a heliver filled with SPF product.

Afternoon, madam. I am your tanning butler.
Ordinary hotel concierges simply won't do anymore. Meet the mission-specific help.

BY AMY ROSEN • In an era of extreme specialization, it was only a matter of time before the fused convergence tipped the scales by honoring 10 on tasks so situation specific they make ear, nose and throat doctors look like first-year residents. Need surfactant? A charlie horse? replace? Once the domain of the ordinary hus-

In part, the fitness concierge who arranges appointments with personal trainers, leads yoga classes in the lobby, and references his "black book" for NYC fitness resources, restaurants with healthy food options, and runner's maps. He also hands out towels and a water bottle when runners back from their run.

conscience, that day was simply not real. No, no, no. This is the dawning of the new energy, specifically, a new call of happy to help hard hands that takes the flames of the conscience to the next level. Although the Toronto-based Four Seasons Hotel and Restaurant was the first in North America to

A 'diplomat's concierge' knows how to charter a jet to Istanbul, and where to eat once you're there

even if you've attempted to fight the pre-sober yourself. Then he'll replenish the silver bucket with fresh ice, straighten his green vest, and insist you have a nice evening as he silently shows the door behind him. *Alors*: Qu'bec, there's the snowmobile value at the Fairmont Le Manoir Richelieu or La Maison

The trend has also caught on overseas, where at the new Taca Hotel - Unova in

Buenos Aires, you can request the expertise of a personal "experience manager." At the Rosewood's Hotel Sotya Group in Tokyo, a "cultural" concierge has the latest info on both high art and lowbrow amusements.

The Four Seasons group have a whole raft of contingency procedures. To wit, Four Seasons Resort, Ardena in San Diego boasts a staff member who has the sun on the house under conditions, wind, water temperature and storm spots along the beach, beaches. Both the Four Seasons and the Four Seasons Hide (in Honolulu) offer ski coverage for guests, which includes everything from tickets to the school, do-walking to warm warming, and—here's the best part—ski valets to help guests in their boots and then carry ski gear to the gondola for them. You needn't lift a finger. Four Seasons Resort Scottsdale (in Scottsdale, Arizona) has a ski concierge to meet you at the airport, take you to a former golf pro's rented condo (so you don't have to worry about the weather when that happens) who selects the best courses to play depending on guests' abilities, and will also secure the most magnificent tee times. Four Seasons Hotel Washington has a "diplomatic concierge," who can get you into the White House, and will also where in case you want there.

Whether you're soyyo or aged steeve, everyone can agree these mission specific cur-do concegrs are a welcome trend. Still, with all of these job focused concegrs running amok, it begs the question, what's next? The "concrete concegrs"? ☞

WHAT THEY GOT FOR...CLOONEY'S SWAG BAG

Despite a pace of George Clooney, bladders went wild last week when the Hollywood charmer put his Goodnight gift bag on the block to raise money for the United Way's hurricane relief. For US\$45,000, the high bidder got a custom-made Montblanc, a Key Ring with keys to go, a string of Tahitian pearls, a two-night culinary retreat, Arizona spa treatments, and a week-long Hawaiian vacation. Unfortunately, Clooney is not included.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

Abstract

The way women dump girlfriends makes most men look like sentimental softies

'Our kids were friends. Our husbands were crazy about each other.' Then suddenly, 'no contact.'

The book ends with a heart-breaking story



HOTTEST IMPROVED: As her New Year's Eve life memory, Jessica Simpson says: "Last month, the 21-year-old lobby Congress Operation Smile. Then, she's nearly considering a full-on her own orphanage."

with the stranger who rescued her. "The end of one life and the beginning of another," says Green. "You can't imagine what it was like in those days to make a life change like this." Rizzo pleaded with Green to come to her sons. "She wept for my children whom she sold

Grain and her new husband moved to Oak Farm, a letter written from Fresno. Grain couldn't bear to open it: "I read the document and I was depressed." She gave the letter rather than her hand, asking that he dispose of it. Last year, Grain's husband died, and when she was sorting through his papers, she found it. Fresno's unsigned letter, dated Sept. 18, 1945. Fresno had written, "I am so sorry for my behaviour and my judgment of you. I think it was very selfish of me. Forgive my lapse, my temporary insanity, I wouldn't give up this friend ship for anything in the world." Fresno died

month before Goetz found the letter. **M**

NOTE THAT ARTHUR S. MOUTH is dead, now, and can't be contacted, but may list a change

Read and learn, philistines

**JOSEPH P. FROST**

birth"—a description that is somewhat noble, though perhaps less accurate, than "a moment in getting me on *Entertainment Weekly*, babe."

Whatever the motivation, the work has proved to be a publicity masterpiece. Indeed, given the copious money set off by any cinematic success, we can fairly expect to see other renditions of similar "celebrity" statuary, including *What George Clooney Possibly Looks Like Naked*, and, more alarmingly, *Naomi Watts: A Monument to Ponderosity*. (I've already bought the cloth.)

Though mocked by the mainstream media, Edwards' statue is in fact an artistic over-the-top. Read and learn, children.

1 Appreciate the curiously inductive nature of the post, which represents either an intentional visualization of the harrowing process or, more likely, the fact that the artist couldn't find even a single photograph of *Reveries* set in this post.

② In art, bears symbolize the first disposition of man, his untamed spirit and brutal nature. Bearsden's cage, on the other hand, symbolizes art: whose work is best viewed in positive size under a bright light.

deposited in seed grow? Is the animal raising against its intended subjugation? Or is it screaming out its agony for forcing it into this humiliating job? It's fun to speculate.

Ⓢ Regarding the serene countenance: This is generally understood as art to signify that a woman obviously didn't notice that stance or else the facial features would reflect the god-damn torture that a childbirth, you chockles, made her endure.

② Interestingly, the hands are released, when at first the hands of a woman in the final stages of labour would likely be clenched. This emphasises that this is not idealised world of Arc and not a reflection of reality. Another clue that there is no accompanying sense of Britain's dead-end limited tacking back a legger with his pose as the masculinity word.

③ Note the last line: note the use of the locust, the way they defile symbolise the material state. They also suggest to the way the brains maintain a flawless symmetry, the way they have ultimately, their seductive curves abundant with usual consequence, laughing forth with a hoosy natty that... oh, where was I more with that?

7 Note that Ilse's mouth is closed, which probably doesn't mean anything anatomically, but sure is nice for a change.

8 The positioning of the feet, the angle, the shading, the musculature, that week speaks so much voluminously to man. As did Ilse's decision to release that record she made with Madonna. **M**

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A black Jeep Commander SUV is shown from a front-three-quarter view, driving on a rugged, rocky, and uneven terrain. The vehicle is dark-colored, possibly black or dark grey, and features the iconic Jeep seven-slot grille and round headlights. The background consists of a dramatic, cloudy sky with a mix of blue and grey tones, suggesting a late afternoon or early morning setting. The overall mood is adventurous and emphasizes the vehicle's off-road capabilities.

Jeep



LIGHT HOUSE
Isabelle Huppert's dour and enigmatic character creates a tension on that curiously familiar terrain.

Isabelle Holland's wonderfully unperformed deer-head lamp casts a twisted glow on that cultural icon. (antislavery.com)

Prolific and elusive Marlene Dietrich's new album *Marlene* (Universal) is back with a new band, friends—who've already opened for her. The CD, *Return to the Sea*, is full of heavy indie pop and sexy worldplay.

Favorable Deputy Luffs, near Tokyo, are designed to keep owners youthful and alert—through inconvenient features. Features include sloping floors, light switches in all the wrong places (some at waist height), and doors you have to crawl through. It'll be fun for a week. (responsible.com)

Chief Tim Linton of Top, Inc., came up with the idea for the 340-hp, 5.7-liter HEMI V8 engine-powered BQ, and Chrysler engineers built it for a contest. It's not on the market—but we can dream about the day when we can rock 340 hot dogs in three minutes.

For a flick financed by friends and family, and out on a bedrock computer, *Snafu* is pretty slick. It's a noir murder mystery set in a high school. Characters speak in a lingo that's half-baked blend of Dashiell Hammett and contemporary slang.

GRATING GARLIC MADE EASY
From a chef who used the embossed numbers on his

a close of garb, the GarbaCard is sturdy, washable, and affordable (www.garba.com)

Ensign Lopez's lead characters Danny Crane (William Shatner) and Alan Shore (James Spader) are TV's modern odd couple. Danny's plan to have best friend/colleague/cooperator Alan promise to shoot him if his ongoing slide into sanity worsens are both touching, and funny.

The Taste Everything Independent Food Festival and Awards—where food bloggers become hosts on their five culinary experiences—gave Ode World Pudge Co., in Vancouver, the prize for best peanut butter. Crunchy and creamy, not sticky and dense.

World Cup madness kicks off on June 9, leaving fans weeks to save up for a Nike replica jersey. Portugal's (above) jersey is black and the look is aggressive and sleek—while Croatia's flag inspired checkerboard pattern cracks a bold message.

OPERA NUT

In his new book, *A Visit to the Opera*, Toronto illustrator Miquel Velázquez combines sageful caricatures and detailed commentary on a disastrous opera world, including ultra-diva Nerida Naldi, who would send her maid to rehearse.

Capping off its 11th season, Taiwan's Open/Airer presents the first season ever staged. Masterworks' *Carles* (June 14)

Some of the world's oldest recorded sounds have been digitized by the University of California, Santa Barbara. The whistling, blowing, whistling, and other traditional William H. Taft brass banding, class room speeches, and for music buffs there is plenty of Tin Pan Alley goes. They can be downloaded free, or streamed online (cylinderlibrary.ucsb.edu).

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the catastrophic earthquake that hit San Francisco, artist Elisabeth Hickok has created a quivering, wobbling large-scale version of the city as it is (shakibak.com).



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† Based on actual tests conducted with the Ramair® on 2000 model year vehicles.

TARA ROSE MCAVOY

1987-2006

'She was a star' in the deaf community because of her beauty and accomplishments

Tara Rose McAvoy was born deaf on July 12, 1987, in Worcester, Mass., to deaf parents Sarah, who taught American Sign Language, and Mark, whose parents in a group home for deaf adults with multiple disabilities. When she was still an infant, they enrolled her at the Learning Center for Deaf Children in nearby Framingham. At age five, Tara's family, including her brother, John, who can hear, moved to Austin, a city Sarah describes as "deaf culture friendly." Tara went to the Texas School for the Deaf. The school's superintendent, Chase Rogers, who knew Tara well, says, "She was a beautiful child—friendly, bright-eyed with dimples that lit up her smile."

Tara was so beautiful, in fact, that her parents entered her in beauty pageants where she won when elementary school. In 1999, she was crowned Miss Teen South Texas. "Everyone stood up and bowed toward her, instead of clapping," Sarah says. She went on to represent the state at the American Grand Pageant in Orlando, Fla., placing 13th among 201 girls—none of them deaf except her.

Tara continued to attend the Texas School for the Deaf (TSD) through elementary and high school, although not for many of the 475 students, the nerve lived on campus. At home, "she liked to play soccer with her hearing peers," Sarah says. "But to cheer for hours, she enjoyed sitting with deaf peers and hearing peers who sign." She was a top student and "involved in just about every kind of extracurricular activity you could imagine," Claire says. "She loved cheerleading and rodeo at government. She played basketball and volleyball. She was an amazing player, including *Jenna and the Gutter Poets*, in which she played the role of Lady Grey." Tara told Claire she was basically shy but, on stage, she always felt she could come alive.

During the summer months, Tara attended a leadership camp for deaf youth in Florida, where she made lifelong friends. She left TSD to study during her sophomore year and went to the Model Secondary School for the Deaf on the Gallaudet University campus in Washington. "Like at TSD," says Claire, "she was a star there." Tara came back to TSD and graduated last year, just before she won the Miss Deaf Texas 2005-2007 title on June 19 in Austin. Says Kathryn Mac March, a school friend and second runner-up, "She had one of the most beautiful personalities, and smiles, of anyone I knew. I was not informed at all to lose to her." Her first runner-up, Johanna

Valencia of San Antonio, says, "Tara Rose represented us with dignity and poise." Adds Claire, "She had everything it takes to exist in those arenas—beauty, brains, charm and talent."

Especially in the deaf community, Tara's accomplishments made her an idol for other girls. "I had the pleasure of meeting Tara last year," says Natalie Miranda of Fort Worth. "She was so incredibly kind and patient with me. I had just begun signing. Tara allowed me to interview her for my deaf culture class and we kept in touch through emails." In Keller, Laura Hill remembers her little daughter, Lexi, exclaiming Tara "dances the smile at the Miss Deaf

Texas pageant and being almost overwhelmed by her glamour."

In late June this year, Tara planned to represent Texas at the Miss Deaf America Pageant in Palm Desert, Calif. "I will never forget the time she spent the night at my house and I helped her fix her hair before her appearance at the Deaf Celebration here," says Kathy Wilkins, the fundraising coordinator. "I knew she would represent us well without a doubt."

On her blog, "Tara Rose," Tara took herself too seriously, calling herself a "miss with a heart," advising readers to "keep Austin weird, baby," and telling the world she was in a relationship. Her boyfriend, Chad Justice, taught her to hunt and take care of the animals on his family farm. Her last entry on Sun., March 12, simply said "I love you," so readers. It was probably the last for Chad.

On Mon., March 13, at about 3 p.m., Tara was walking north along the railroad tracks, taking a shortcut from her home to her mother's office. Her father was to come and pick her up there. She was text messaging on her cell phone as she walked. A freight train carrying automobiles from Mexico to St. Louis came up behind her at about 46 mph. Union Pacific spokesman Jon Johnson and the train's conductor and engineer spotted her crossing a low bridge as they rounded a bend. Within moments the engineer sounded the horn. When there was no reaction, the crew "was at an all-out emergency mode," says Austin police Det. David Pugh. They did their best to stop the 4,700-ton train and continued to blast the horn for about 10 seconds. Then the train's cowcatcher, which protruded about 16 inches on either side of the engine, hit Tara when she was about 20 feet on the far side of the bridge. She died at the scene. She was 18.

BY NARRADA RICHMOND



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